



*Your Land.  
Your Voice.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 7, 2022**

Contact: Corey Himrod

Tel: 202-266-0426 | Email: [corey@alaskawild.org](mailto:corey@alaskawild.org)

**Alaska Wilderness League announces Dr. Peter Winsor as new executive director**

*Dr. Winsor joins AWL after serving as director of World Wildlife Fund's Global Arctic Program*

Washington — Alaska Wilderness League is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Peter Winsor as its next executive director. Peter comes to AWL from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), where he served as the director of its Global Arctic Program and its official representative to the Arctic Council. Prior to his time at WWF, Peter spent ten years as an associate tenured professor at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF) where he founded the Coastal Community Ocean Observer program. He has served on advisory boards for the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as well as chief scientist on large expeditions in the Arctic and Antarctica.

“Alaska is a truly unique part of the world, home to wildlife and beautiful wild spaces stewarded by its Indigenous peoples for thousands of years,” **said Dr. Winsor**. “I am deeply connected to these landscapes and experience daily the rapid changes that Alaska is now undergoing, and am excited and honored to join Alaska Wilderness League to safeguard these globally important ecosystems for generations to come.”

Peter’s selection is the culmination of a multi-month process that began back in July 2021 following the unexpected passing of the League’s former executive director Adam Kolton.

“Alaska Wilderness League, our board and staff, are excited to welcome Peter Winsor as AWL’s new executive director,” **said Pat Pourchot, Alaska Wilderness League’s board president**. “Peter has forged deep relationships with Alaska Native communities across the state and understands not only the critical role Indigenous peoples have played for thousands of years in stewarding the land and wildlife, but also the unique challenges they’re facing today. He has spent many years living in Alaska and brings to the League a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience on issues facing both the state and the Arctic. We look forward to working with him as he guides the organization into the future.”

**Background:**

Peter grew up on the west coast of Sweden and early on developed a love for nature and outdoor adventures. After completing his Ph.D. in Sweden on Arctic sea ice and oceanography, he moved to the U.S. in 2002 to work at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) where he spearheaded Arctic research and taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology–Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering.



[www.AlaskaWild.org](http://www.AlaskaWild.org)

122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 \* Tel: 202-544-5205 \* Fax: 202-544-5197

In Alaska, his work at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks spanned from ecosystem function and relation to changing ocean conditions to developing novel technology to studying climate change effects on the marine and coastal environment. During his time at UAF, Peter's work migrated from offshore oceanography to community-based science programs, with a focus on terrestrial-coastal ecosystems and the services they provide to local communities.

###

*Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state's land, waters and wildlife. We believe that Alaska's long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism, and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans' quality of life.*



[www.AlaskaWild.org](http://www.AlaskaWild.org)

122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 \* Tel: 202-544-5205 \* Fax: 202-544-5197