

STATE OF ALASKA

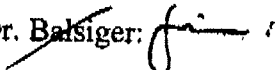
SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

January 12, 2007

Dr. James Balsiger
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Dear Dr. Balsiger: 

The State of Alaska (SOA) understands that National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service is currently considering whether to adopt the draft recovery criteria developed by the Steller sea lion recovery team and presented in the draft Steller sea lion (SSL) recovery plan. While adopting such recovery criteria may be legally adequate, the SOA does not believe this is an appropriate action to take at this time because of the contentious nature of this issue and because of the extensive level of public comment your agency has received on the draft recovery plan. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (council) tasked its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to convene a special meeting in August 2006 to review this draft recovery plan, and consequently has forwarded to your agency a considerable number of technical concerns with the plan. We believe that, until the comments on the draft recovery plan have been considered, moving forward with adoption of the draft recovery criteria is clearly not the most effective method to respond to the council, SSC, and public process.

We strongly encourage you to not consider adopting these criteria until the recovery plan has been finalized and the unresolved technical concerns with the draft recovery plan and its draft recovery criteria are fully addressed. The main reason that the SSC conducted the special August meeting was to provide comments to your agency on the recovery plan prior to the development of the Draft Biological Opinion (BiOp) which had been scheduled for release at the December 2006 council meeting. Because the SSC, the council, and the testifying public's (especially Dr. Ian Boyd) comments from June, August, and October meetings were so substantive, adopting recovery criteria based on a draft recovery plan that has not been revised to address these comments may not constitute good public process. We also note that some have suggested that, given the number of comments received and the nature of those comments, that NOAA Fisheries Service consider preparing another draft of the SSL recovery plan for another round of council, SSC, and public review. The draft BiOp has already slipped to June and we encourage you to adopt a comprehensive plan that includes both a revision of the recovery plan and development of a draft BiOp that can include revised recovery criteria based on the comments described above.

Dr. James Balsiger

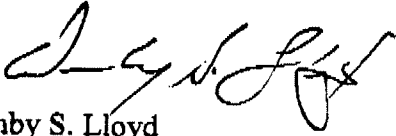
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January 12, 2007

We clearly understand the staff workload associated with drafting both a revised recovery plan and a draft BiOp, and strongly encourage you to look within your agency for marine mammalogists who can be tasked with assisting your Protected Resources Division staff in this process. Without such a revised recovery plan and another hard look at the proposed recovery criteria, we can only expect to see a draft BiOp that is based on the draft recovery plan, in which case your agency will likely see the same level of criticism that has already been submitted.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,



Denby S. Lloyd
Acting Commissioner

cc: Shane Capron, SSL Coordinator, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce
Doug Demaster, Science Director, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce
Gordon Kruse, Chair, SSC
Earl Krygier, Program Manager, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Stephanie Madsen, Chair, NPFMC
Bob Small, Wildlife Scientist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
~~Assistant Administrator for Fisheries~~
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Department of Commerce
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Hogarth:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, I am pleased to submit my nominations for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) seats currently held by Doug Hoedel and Stephanie Madsen.

After reviewing the requirements under the Amended Act and after consulting representatives of commercial and recreational fishing interests in Alaska, I nominate the following persons for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce.

FIRST SEAT NOMINEES

Nominees to fill the seat currently held by Doug Hoedel:

Duncan Fields
Gale Vick
Jeff Stephan

SECOND SEAT NOMINEES

Nominees to fill the seat currently held by Stephanie Madsen:

Beth Stewart
Nancy Munro
Sam Cotten

Dr. William T. Hogarth

March 13, 2007

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Representatives from the following organizations provided advice regarding these nominations:

United Fishermen of Alaska
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition
Heritage Fishing Partners
Southeast Alaska Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission
Old Harbor Native Corporation
Native Village of Perryville
Aleutians East Borough

BACKGROUND OF FIRST SEAT NOMINEES

Duncan Fields of Kodiak has been an active commercial fisherman since 1960. He is a salmon set gillnet permit holder, family purse seine and beach seine permit holder, herring gill net permit holder, and a codfish state waters permit holder. Duncan and his extended family own and operate the largest salmon set-net site on Kodiak Island. He has served on the NPFMC Advisory Panel since 2001. Duncan is also the chairman of the Alaska Fisheries Marketing Board, a board member of United Fishermen of Alaska and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. Duncan serves as an advisor to the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition and the Alaska Board of Fisheries Gulf Rationalization Committee.

Gale Vick of Anchorage is the executive director of the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition, a nonprofit organization that represents the fisheries' interests and access of Gulf of Alaska communities. Gale has a solid working knowledge of federal and state fisheries management. She is a Prince William Sound drift net permit holder and formerly worked a fishwheel on the Tanana River. Gale is an active member of the Prince William Sound Science Center Board of Directors and the North Pacific Research Board Advisory Panel. Gale also participates in the Women's Fisheries Network, the American Fisheries Society, and United Fishermen of Alaska.

Jeff Stephan of Kodiak has previously served as a voting member of NPFMC from 1982-1985 and served for 13 years on the Council's advisory panel. He is currently the chairman of the Council's IFQ Implementation and Cost Recovery Committee. Jeff served as a member of other national, state, and local boards that address national, Alaska, regional, and local fisheries, ocean policy, and ocean management issues. Jeff has represented the United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Incorporated for 28 years.

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BACKGROUND OF SECOND SEAT NOMINEES

Beth Stewart of Juneau has served as the director of Natural Resources Department for the Aleutians East Borough for 15 years. Her job includes working directly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries and NPFMC, to relay local concerns. The Borough has participated directly in the Steller Sea Lion litigation, the American Fisheries Act, and the NPFMC's effort to rationalize the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. Beth served as executive director of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game from 1983-1989. Beth is a former member of the NPFMC Advisory Panel, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, United Fishermen of Alaska, and the West Coast chair of the National Academy of Science's ITQ Study.

Nancy Munro of Anchorage is the President of Saltwater, Incorporated, a leading firm in providing support to fisheries observers. Munro was chairman of the NPFMC advisory panel in the 1980s.

Sam Cotten of Eagle River is a lifetime sports fisherman and a Lower Cook Inlet purse seine permit owner. Sam is a current member of the NPFMC Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee and a past member of the NPFMC Communities Committee. Additionally, Sam serves on the Alaska Board of Fisheries Salmon Industry Restructuring Panel and the Groundfish Rationalization Steering Committee; he also serves on the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute White Fish Committee and the Food Service Marketing Committee. Sam has served as a resource analyst and consultant for the Aleutians East Borough since 2001. His duties include attending NPFMC meetings, and presenting testimony to the Council, Advisory Panel and the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Sam served in the Alaska State Legislature for nearly two decades, and was Speaker of the House of Representatives for one term.

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Because of their outstanding qualifications, []

Dr. William T. Hogarth
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Thank you for your consideration of these nominees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Palin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sarah Palin
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Ivy Frye, Director, Boards and Commissions, Alaska Office of the
Governor

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

April 26, 2007

Dr. William T. Hogarth
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OS-EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2007 MAY -4 PM # 03

Dear Dr. Hogarth:

We have heard concerns that our suite of recent nominations for two expiring Alaska obligatory seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) was not expansive enough, and that perhaps it should have included a specified recreational fishing representative. I want to assure you that during our screening process to select knowledgeable and qualified individuals, we considered a broad range of individuals from a variety of interests and sectors.

While we considered your statement in the request for nominations that the NPFMC is weighted heavily toward the commercial sector, we also considered upcoming NPFMC activities for the fall of 2007 and during 2008. And we noted that, in your recent Report to Congress on the regional fishery management council program, the most significant fishery management issues facing the NPFMC were all related to the vast commercial fisheries off Alaska and their impact to communities.

Currently the North Pacific Council has a strong recreational representative in Ed Rasmuso: [] will round out the Council's membership to include direct representation of Alaska's coastal communities. It would be a mistake to classify these two nominees as simply commercial sector representatives; rather, they represent the broad array of fishery interests, including recreational, environmental, and commercial held by fishing communities throughout Alaska.

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I certainly do not diminish the importance of recreational fishing interests in the Council process, but in Alaska the sport fishery concerns revolve around the halibut charter issue. ~~The Council is well on its way in dealing with this issue, having just~~ recently approved a moratorium on new entrants to the halibut charter fleet and laying out a process to evaluate identified intermediate and long term management alternatives. I believe the Council is dealing with this sport fishery issue handily in the face of the previous charter IFQ (individual fishing quota) decision being returned to them.

I want to reiterate my support for the nominees that I forwarded to you in March. Their addition to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will help maintain and extend our Council's leadership in stock conservation and fishery management within the nation's regional fishery management council system.

Sincerely,



Sarah Palin
Governor

cc: Alaska Congressional Delegation
Carlos M. Gutierrez, U.S. Secretary of Commerce

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

November 14, 2007

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Department of Commerce
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Hogarth:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, I am pleased to submit my nomination for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) seat currently held by Ed Rasmuson.

As you know, Mr. Rasmuson submitted his resignation effective January 1, 2008. Therefore I am submitting a slate of three candidates, as required by the act, to fill the remainder of Mr. Rasmuson's term, which ends August 10, 2009. After reviewing the requirements of the act and consulting with representatives of commercial and recreational fishing interests in Alaska, I nominate one of the following for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce:

Robert "Ed" Dersham
Dr. Roland Maw
Michael Heimbuch

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Robert "Ed" Dersham of Anchor Point is a twenty three year charter boat operator in Lower Cook Inlet who served on the Alaska Board of Fisheries for more than eight years, including three years as chair and two years as vice-chair. He was involved in developing and chairing the joint protocol committee for coordination between the Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Council. He holds a bachelor's degree in

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William T. Hogarth, Ph. D.

November 14, 2007

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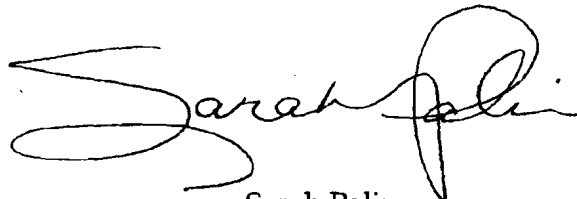
Business Administration from the University of Oregon and is retired from a career as a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Mike Heimbuch of Homer is a lifelong Alaskan and commercial fisherman who has fished for halibut, herring, cod, shrimp, and salmon around the state since 1963. He has served on a variety of civic and local government commissions, including the fish and game advisory committee and the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association. He is an active political writer in Alaska newspapers and is currently a member of the Homer City Council. He majored in music and education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Roland Maw of Kasilof is executive director of United Cook Inlet Drift Association and is co-owner of a charter and salmon research business based in Homer. He has served on the United Fishermen of Alaska's Board of Directors, on the Kenai Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee and on the Joint Legislative Salmon Task Force Governance Committee. Maw earned a doctoral degree in forestry and wildlife management from the University of Alberta in 1988.

I consulted with commercial and recreational fishermen and groups in selecting knowledgeable and qualified individuals for nomination. I also considered women and minority applicants. Ultimately, I determined that these candidates will serve to balance representation on the council and contribute greatly to fishery management in Alaska. I appreciate your consideration of these nominees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Palin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Sarah Palin
Governor

Enclosures

LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS CONSULTED

Former Governor Bill Sheffield
Senator Charlie Huggins
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Gabrielle Ledoux
Representative Bill Stoltz
Greg Sutter - Alaska Charter Association
Mark Vinsel - United Fishermen of Alaska
Ed Rasmuson
Eric Olson
Gerry Merrigan
Duncan Fields
Clem Tillion
John Binkley
Larry McQuarrie - Sportsman's Cove Lodge
Paul Carter - Denali River Cabins
Dave Goldstein - Prince William Sound Eco-Charters
Robert Howard
Rex Murphy - Winter King Charters
Theresa Peterson - F/V Patricia Sue
Darius Kasprzak
Denise Hawks - Puffin Fishing Charters
Dorothy Childers - Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Theresa Weiser - Sitka Charter Boat Operators
Niklas Ranta - Seward Charter Boat Association
Rob Kramer - International Game Fish
Bob Thorstenson, Jr. - Southeast Alaska Seiners
Ben Mulligan
Sean Dochtermann
John McCombs
David Benton - Marine Conservation Alliance
Kathy Hansen - Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance
Tina MacNamee - IslandView Resort and Charters
Joe Childers
Linda Kozak
Chip Porter
Sigrid Rutter
Spencer DeVito

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 13, 2008

James D. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Department of Commerce
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14743
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Balsiger:

Congratulations on your appointment as Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. In accordance with the provisions of Section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, I am pleased to submit my nominations for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) seat currently held by Eric Olson.

As you know, Mr. Olson is currently completing his first term and serves as chair of the council' []

[] After reviewing the requirements of the Act and consulting with representatives of commercial and recreational fishing interests in Alaska, I nominate the following persons for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce.

Eric Olson
Ragnar Alstrom
Jill Klein

Eric Olson of Anchorage is a lifelong commercial fisherman who was born and raised in Dillingham. Mr. Olson earned a B.A. in business administration and a B.A. in accounting from the University of Alaska Anchorage and is currently employed by Kwik'Pak fisheries, which is owned by Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). YDFDA represents six communities at the mouth of the Yukon River. Eric is currently completing his first term on the NPFMC and was elected chairman in 2007.

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Dr. James D. Balsiger
March 13, 2008
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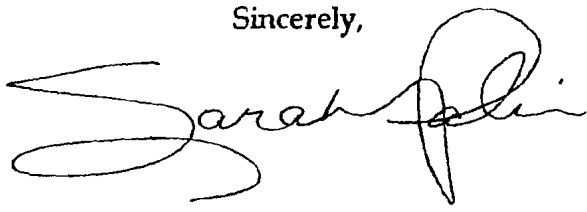
Prior to his council appointment, Olson served as chairman of the council's advisory panel.

Ragnar Alstrom of Alakanuk is the executive director of YDFDA. He is a commercial fisherman who has participated in salmon, crab, halibut, and herring fisheries in and around the Yukon Region. Mr. Alstrom is currently a member of the Yukon River panel and a board member of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. He served on the NPFMC's Advisory Panel from 1998 to 2002, is a former mayor of Alakanuk, and a private pilot.

Jill Klein of Anchorage is the executive director of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA). She first came to Alaska in the summer of 1999 and started working with YRDFA in 2000, serving first as program manager, then as executive director. Ms. Klein completed her Master's degree in Intercultural and International Management from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont in May 2001. She earned a B.S. from the University of Vermont in Natural Resource Economics.

I consulted with commercial and recreational fishermen and groups in selecting knowledgeable and qualified individuals for nomination. I also considered women and minority applicants. Ultimately, I determined that these candidates will serve to balance representation on the council and contribute greatly to fishery management in Alaska. I appreciate your consideration of these nominees.

Sincerely,



Sarah Palin
Governor

Enclosure

LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS CONSULTED

- Senator Albert Kookesh
- Representative Bryce Edgmon
- Representative Bill Thomas
- United Fishermen of Alaska
- Western Alaska Community Development Association
- Afognak Native Corporation
- Coastal Villages Region Fund
- Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
- Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
- Southeast Alaska Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Aleutians East Borough
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition
- Alaska Marine Conservation Council
- Becharof Corporation
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Heritage Fishing Partners
- Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance
- Duncan Fields
- Ernest Weiss
- Ed Rasmuson
- Linda Kozak
- Dr. Roland Maw
- Tony Gregorio
- David Bill Sr.
- Jason Metrokin
- John Walsh