

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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March 14, 2012

Mr. Sam Rauch
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Attention: Mr. William Chappell

Dear Mr. Rauch:

Please accept the following names, in priority order, as my nominees for one of the two obligatory Washington State seats to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). Mr. Dave Benson currently occupies this seat; his present term expires August 10, 2012, and he is not eligible for reappointment.

Washington State has consulted with a broad range of commercial, recreational, and public constituents in seeking nominations for the seat currently held by Mr. Benson; the consultation list is enclosed. Particular efforts were made to recruit qualified women and minority candidates. In conjunction with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, we have evaluated each candidate's suitability and qualifications relative to the Magnuson Stevens Act and the 2012 Guidance Document, and have also determined that none of them are federally registered lobbyists. Based on my evaluations of each candidate's qualifications, I am recommending the following individuals in priority order:

- 1) Ms. Lorene A. Swanson:
Ms. Swanson is the Executive Director of Groundfish Forum, a consortium of trawl catcher-processors that fish for several groundfish species in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, a trade organization that she has worked for since 2002. She has worked in the North Pacific fishing industry since 1980 as an observer, crew, and supplier. Ms. Swanson has served on the Council's Advisory Panel since 2006 and is currently Vice-Chair, and is also a member of the council's Non-Target and VMS Committees. Ms. Swanson resides in Poulsbo, Washington.
- 2) Mr. Craig Cross:
Mr. Cross is the Director of Government Affairs and Business Development for Aleutian Spray Fisheries, Inc., a Seattle based fishing company that operates vessels that fish for Alaska pollock, Pacific cod, Alaska crab and West Coast groundfish. Prior to assuming this position in 2000, he worked in a wide range of positions in several other North Pacific fishing companies, ranging from on-deck work and processing to directing vessel operations.



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Mr. Cross is a member of the Board of Directors for several large trade associations: Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, At Sea Processors Association, Freezer Longliners Coalition and United Catcher Boats. He has been very active in the NPFMC process, including serving on the Council's Advisory Panel from 1996 to the present. He resides in Seattle, Washington.

3) Mr. Milton J. Bundy:

Mr. Bundy is a past member of the NPFMC from 1999 to 2008. He was President of Glacier Fish Company and is now a senior advisor; his company owns and operates three trawl catcher-processors fishing in NPFMC waters. Glacier Fish Company is a partner with the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, one of several Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program groups. Mr. Bundy resides in Seattle, Washington.

While Ms. Swanson is my preferred candidate, I believe that each of these three candidates are well qualified to serve on the NPFMC and will support management values that promote resource conservation, habitat protection, and sustainable fisheries.

Sincerely,



Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

Enclosures: List of Groups Consulted
Nomination kits for Ms. Swanson, Mr. Cross and Mr. Bundy

cc: Phil Anderson, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bill Tweit, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife