



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee
on Ruffner BOF Confirmation dated 040315 .

There are now four commercial fishermen representatives, two sport fishing representatives and one subsistence representative on the board.

This is lop-sided user group representation. I believe that it is time to stop putting special interest members on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Robert Ruffner is a commercial fisheries leader with commercial motives for being on the Board of Fisheries. Ruffner's Kenai Watershed Forum, KWF only masquerades as an environmental organization, it is really a commercial fisheries entity. I believe Robert Ruffner works for commercial fisheries special interest and cannot hope to fairly represent sport fish users. Ruffner's KWF has nine board members. Leslie Morton, Matt Pyhala, David Wartinbee, Denise Newbould, Benjamin Jackinsky, Jim Butler, Howard Ferren, Ken Marlow and Jim Stogskill. Morton is a environmental scientist, Pyhala is a chiropractor, Wartinbee is a biology professor, Newbould is a commercial fisher, Jackinsky is a commercial fisher, Butler is a commercial fisher, Ferren is a commercial fisher, Marlow is a sport fisher and Stogsdill is a sport fisher. (4 commercial fishers, 2 sport fishers and 3 environmental scientists). This comes down to 45% commercial fish interests, 22% sport fish interests, 33% science interests. The KWF website clearly claims that their KWF goal is to have "balanced representation" and then both Ruffner and the KWF either "deliberately or accidentally" manipulate their board seats into "unbalanced representation". Most of the KWF board seats are filled with commercial fishers, therefore I claim that the KWF is a commercial fisheries entity. Ruffner was the leader of a commercial fisheries entity, therefore how can anyone expect him to fairly represent the sport fishing public? Please do not confirm Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you.

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