

Members of the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game;

Please consider this letter and packet to be my application for the position of Commissioner of Fish and Game. I am currently serving as Acting commissioner and would appreciate your consideration for nomination as permanent commissioner.

Alaska has a proud tradition and well deserved reputation for excellence in fish and game management. I believe my background in government, resource management and hands on experience gives me the ability to help carry on that tradition.


Alaska and the Department of Fish and game face many challenges to our ability to carry out our constitutional and statutory responsibilities regarding the management of the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state. Fortunately we have an outstanding professional staff and a board system that works well. I believe one of my strengths is my ability to work with people toward a consensus on sometimes difficult issues. I look forward to working with staff, the boards, the legislature and the public as we address the challenges.

Alaska's fish and game resources are extremely important to all Alaskans and we should constantly strive to involve the public in decisions we make. It will be my intention to reach out and encourage participation at all levels.

The sustained yield principle in Alaska's constitution requires us to insure fish and game resources are managed in strict compliance with this mandate. If we err, it must be on the side of the resource rather than the users.

Alaska's leadership on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council must be maintained in order to properly meet our mandate of sustained yield as well as meeting our responsibility to insure healthy, sustainable fishing communities and fair opportunities for harvesters and processors. My experience in this arena will help maintain that leadership.

Thank you for your consideration,


Sam Cotten

Objective: Appointment as permanent Commissioner, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

Professional qualifications:

Acting Commissioner, ADF&G Dec. 1, 2014-present

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, voting member Sept. 2007-June 2013. The council prepares and amends fisheries management plans for the fisheries occurring in federal waters (3-200 nm). The council works with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and the Board of Fish to coordinate management programs in federal and state waters.

Resource analyst/ fisheries consultant for Aleutians East Borough 2001-2014. Attended Board of Fish and North Pacific Council meetings, analyzed regulatory changes, advocated for sustainable fishing communities and opportunities for Alaska based fishermen.

Boards and Committees:

Previous service on a variety of boards and committees 2001-2014

Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank (CFAB) board of directors, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute; committees on food service and retail. State legislative task force on salmon industry restructuring.

Southwest Alaska Municipal conference, fisheries committee.

Cook Inlet Aquaculture Assn. Board of Directors, representing Municipality of Anchorage.

WASSIP work group, (salmon genetic study)

Advisory committee member, International Pacific Fisheries Commission 1987-88

Advisor, U.S.-USSR fisheries negotiations 1989-90

Alaska State Legislature 1975-83, 1985-93, Served in both houses. Speaker of the House, 1989-90.

Personal

Born 7/16/1947 Juneau, Ak.

Southeast Ak., Juneau, Douglas, Tenakee Springs 1947-51

Palmer, 1951-63

Eagle River, 1963-present

Married: Martha Tillion Cotten, M.D., two sons; Sammy (27) Gus (24)

Education, Chugiak H.S. 1965, University of Alaska A.A degree 1978

Military Service; U.S. Navy 1965-69. Electronics School 1966, USS

Talladega (APA-208) 1966-68, Vietnam 1967. USS Schofield (DEG-3)

1968-69, Vietnam 1969. ETN-2 (E-5).

Community service:

Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission 1983-84

Anchorage Ski Club board of directors 1982-87

Fire Lake Recreation Center board of directors 1984-present

Chugiak - Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, board of directors 1984-85

Anchorage Airport citizens advisory committee, Chairman 1994-96

Employment: worked as electrician, fire fighter, printer, water well driller, public information officer, Senior technical representative Xerox Corp., commercial fisherman.

Awards:

Alaska's Outstanding Vietnam Veteran by National No Greater Love Foundation. 1975

Wildlife Federation of Alaska, Legislative Conservation award 1988

Alaska Outdoor Council, Special recognition award 1988

Hobbies, interests:

Fishing, boating, skiing, bowling, Alaska history

Management experience

Speaker of the House, Alaska State Legislature 1989-1990.

As the leader, along with the President of the Senate, of the Legislative branch of government my job involved overall management responsibilities for the legislative agencies including administration, finance, legal affairs and research.

Chairman House Rules committee, 1977-1980. Management responsibilities included staffing for individual legislators, assignment of office space, preparation of the daily calendar (insuring legislation was ready for action by the full House of Representatives).

Chairman, house finance committee 1981. State budget preparation, fiscal analysis of legislation.

Chairman: house resources 1987-88, house community and regional affairs 1975-76, Senate oil and gas 1991-92, Senate resources 1992. As committee chairman, management duties included preparation of legislation, public testimony, staff management, working with other legislators, bill sponsors and administration representatives.

Chairman, Alaska Public Utilities Commission 1996-1999 (member 1995) Worked with executive director in management of the several sections within the commission staff. Professionals in the fields of communications, energy, water and wastewater, refuse services were employed by the commission and provided analysis and technical expertise to the commissioners.

Business manager, local investment group 1982-84. Owned and operated a variety of businesses including gas stations, grocery store, commercial and residential rentals.

Owner operator purse seine fishing operation 1987-2007, managed crew and business operations.

Experience in Fish and Game activities:

Sport fishing in lakes and streams in Mat-Su Valley, interior, arctic, Western Alaska, Southeast, Kenai as well as ocean fishing in Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska. 1953-present. Took Alaska Railroad to fish Montana Creek and Sheep Creek before Parks Hwy. was constructed. Fly in fish with friends occasionally.

Trapping for muskrat and mink in the Palmer area 1959-63. Koslosky's, the local fur buyer paid \$.50 for muskrat, decided against trapping as a career.

Hunted in Mat-Su Valley, Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, Wrangell Mountains and Southeast over the years.

Personal use fisheries have included dip netting in China Poot Bay; silver salmon personal use set net; tanner crab, Dungeness crab and shrimp pot fishing, Kachamek Bay and Prince William Sound; as well as clams and mussels in various locations.

Commercial fishing:

Lower Cook Inlet purse seine, permit holder 1987-2007

Sitka and Cook Inlet herring, crew 1993

Sand Point/King Cove beach seine and purse seine, crew 1978-79

Southeast gill net, crew 1977 (one trip)

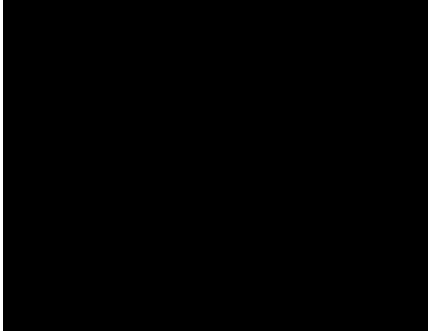
Halibut longline, crew 2014 (two trips)

Pot Cod, Sand Point, ride along, 2012, (one trip)

Professional references:

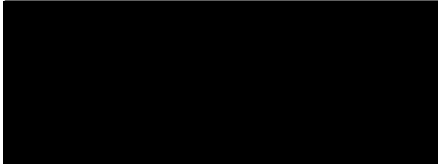
Charles Cole

Former Attorney General, State of Alaska



Eric Olson

Former Chairman, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council



Denby Lloyd

Executive director, North Pacific Research Board

Former Commissioner, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

