



P.O. Box 478 • Homer • Alaska • 99603

To Preserve and Protect the Rights and Resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen

Senate President Kevin Meyers and Speaker Mike Chenault;

On behalf of the Alaska Charter Association, we are writing in support of the confirmation of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Mr. Ruffner interviewed with our organization's leadership and presented himself as an advocate for our fisheries resources; and as a person who respects the value and contribution that the Charter industry provides to Alaska. We believe he will carefully and rationally consider our interests.

The Alaska Charter Association is a statewide organization, and our mission is: *To preserve and protect the rights and resources of Alaska's recreational anglers and to serve as the voice of the marine charter industry on local, state, federal and international issues affecting our industry.*

As an organization, our main points of concern are:

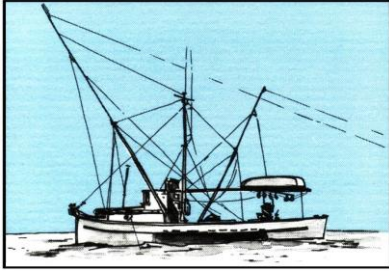
- A need for equal representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Board of Fish, Advisory Panel and Stakeholders committees.
- Conservation of the halibut resource and wastage issues.
- Ensure equal and fair access for all recreational anglers.
- Ensuring that management decisions comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the 10 national standards for fishery conservation and management, and the public trust doctrine.
- Ensuring reasonable mechanisms for growth in the recreational fishing sector.
- Comprehensive economic studies of the value of a sport caught fish to the local economies.

We have over 115 members and associate members. We respectfully request that you vote to confirm Mr. Ruffner.

Sincerely,

Richard Yamada (President) David Bayes (Vice President)

cc: Alaska State Senators, Alaska House Representatives



Alaska Trollers Association

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April 8, 2015

Senator Bill Stolze, Chair
Senate State Affairs
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Bill Stolze and Committee Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association supports the confirmation of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board).

The most essential ingredient of a solid Board process is the appointment of people who bring to the table a willingness to learn, combined with a shared vision of sustaining both fisheries resources and fishing communities. It is important for fishermen of all kinds that the Board is made up of people with first-hand knowledge of Alaska's fisheries and gear, but that's only one part of the equation. How they approach their task can make all the difference when it comes to successfully harmonizing the needs of each region. There are lots of ideas about what mix of people makes up a 'balanced' Board of Fish, but we contend it's not just a head count by gear type - with well over 150 fisheries around the state, that's an impossible goal. Board member 'attitude' is a huge component of successful Board outcomes and should not be overlooked.

Mr. Ruffner is an angler who has proven himself a consensus builder. He honed that people-skill while working to protect habitat and sustain Alaska's natural resources. Robert is familiar with Cook Inlet and the value of all fisheries to the social and economic health of the region and state. He has expressed a commitment to science; transparent decision-making; and, bridging diverse interests for the good of all. That kind of attitude is precisely what's needed on the Board, and far outweighs the wearing of any particular fishery stripe.

Therefore, ATA supports Mr. Ruffer for the Board, because we believe he will be studious about learning what he needs to know and applying that knowledge to best serve the resource and fishing public. We hope you agree and will vote to confirm his appointment to the Board of Fisheries.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or be of help in any way.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director



Senate State Affairs Committee
Senator Stoltze, Chair
Alaska Capitol Building, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

10 April 2015

SUPPORT ORVILLE HUNTINGTON & ROBERT RUFFNER, BOARD OF FISHERIES APPOINTMENTS

Dear Chairman Stoltze,

The Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is a commercial fishing gear group comprised of more than 150 paying skipper and crew memberships, as well as over 75 paying business members. SEAS represents the interests of roughly 1,500 fishermen in the S01A fishery as well as their families and communities throughout SE Alaska and beyond.

As a group committed to the protection of the resource which provides our means of income, SEAS supports Governor Walker's re-appointment of Orville Huntington and appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries (BOF). The State of Alaska needs highly competent, focused, and intelligent individuals on the Board, and based on their scientific education and involvement on varied fishery boards, both Huntington and Ruffner will serve the BOF very well.

Orville Huntington brings a valued perspective and provides respected input to the Board of Fisheries, especially on subsistence issues. As a lifelong Alaskan from Huslia, Mr. Huntington has demonstrated a commitment to conserving our fishery resource and we admire his dedication to ensuring the viability of our renewable resource and the varied manners of harvesting our fish. With a degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and his service on the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Native Science Commission, he understands the importance of science-based decision making, a much needed quality for Alaska's BOF members.

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association
PO Box 23081 – Juneau, AK 99802
907-463-5080



Robert Ruffner also has a solid background in science and his service on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission has provided him with an intricate knowledge of fisheries issues so important to our state. Mr. Ruffner has a proven track record of working with varied stakeholders; a prized perspective and approach for work with the Board of Fish, which we all know can, at certain times, be highly contentious. His experience and leadership with the Kenai Watershed Forum is a striking example of dedication to scientific research, the significance of habitat preservation, and using his analytical skills to move forward for the good of the resource and those who harvest the resources. With such a solid background, we are confident that Mr. Ruffner will excel in this new role on the Board of Fisheries.

We *need* well qualified individuals on the Board of Fisheries, no matter where they come from in our great state of Alaska. And that is why we support Orville Huntington's re-appointment and Robert Ruffner's appointment to the Board of Fisheries and encourage you to do all you can to support and confirm these appointments as well.

Sincerely,

Dan Castle
President, SEAS

Written testimony by Dan Chay, Kenai
April 13, 2015

Senate Affairs Committee:
Senator Bill Stoltze, Chair
Senator John Coghill, Vice Chair
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Bill Wielechowski

Chairman Stoltze, members of the committee, Alaskans

I've known Robert Ruffner professionally for more than 15 years. I've watched the Board of Fisheries processes for much longer. From my perspective, and from the perspective of the fish in this state, I think Robert Ruffner ranks among the best candidates for the Board of Fisheries that I've seen.

Robert Ruffner always has been an advocate for the rivers and streams and the fish that live in them on the Kenai Peninsula -- and beyond the Kenai. As an expert with a successful track record of protecting rivers and streams, I've known that people consult with him from around the state.

Robert is among the best candidates I've seen for three significant reasons: competence, integrity, and character.

Let me speak to competence. Robert's extensive experience in hydrology, fisheries science, and ecology uniquely qualify him for the Board of Fisheries. His broadband scientific skills will help all Board members constructively engage in the wide variety of issues from around the state that the Board addresses. He is a quick study.

Integrity. Robert's leadership on the Kenai Peninsula has been noteworthy for his numerous achievements on behalf of the river systems that enable Cook Inlet fisheries. Equally noteworthy are the diverse coalitions that Robert organized on behalf of fish. People who have worked with Robert coming from different backgrounds and even-conflicting sport fish and commercial interests trust Robert for his integrity.

Character. In addition to competence and integrity, Robert has demonstrated a long history of thoughtful, sober, diligent engagement at the level of public policy with regard to river and fisheries issues. Robert will do his homework to understand issues and digest evidence on behalf of all the fisheries and user groups in the state. I can say that with confidence because he has a consistent history of doing so.

Unlike other appointments on the Board of Fisheries, and to Robert's credit, he is not an agent for particular user groups. He always has been an advocate for the fish and their habitats, and in that way, indirectly, he has been an advocate for all user groups.

Thank you,

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Dan Chay

My name is David Athons. I am and have been a continuous resident of the Kenai Peninsula since 1976. I am an avid sport fisherman and that is how I stock my freezer each summer. I retired from the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, as a Fishery Manager in the Soldotna office in the year 2000.

I support Robert Ruffner for the AK Board of Fish and urge you to do so as well.

Over the last almost 40 years I have been an observer both personally and professionally of the politics of Fisheries Management and have watched it become increasingly polarized, often to the detriment of the resource. Far too often I have observed politics take precedence over well-reasoned and sustainable biological fisheries management. I see Mr. Ruffner as an individual who will focus on biology over politics!

Just this weekend I received emails characterizing Mr Ruffner as allied with commercial interests – blatant misinformation for political gain. He has been characterized as a rabid environmentalist yet his history of working closely with industry for the benefit of both industry and fish clearly speaks otherwise. He has been painted as insensitive to personal use needs yet is an avid personal use as well as sport fisherman.

I see Mr Ruffner as *an outstanding candidate for the* ~~a long needed breath of fresh air on the~~ Board of Fish. An individual who will focus on sound management practices while carefully considering the best interests of all Alaskans.

He is a sound scientist. Most importantly, he is a man with impeccable integrity and a proven background. Few have ever been considered for a Board seat who more clearly fulfill the intent of Alaska Statute 16.05.221. I hope that language will guide your decision making. It is time to refocus fisheries management away from politics and back toward biology. I strongly urge you to support Mr Ruffner in an effort toward that end which will benefit not only the resource but all Alaskans.

SOUTH K BEACH INDEPENDENT

FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

P.O. Box 1632 Kenai, Alaska 99611-1632 (907) 252 - 4290
Protecting and Preserving the Kasilof River Aquarian System

Chairman, Senator Bill Stoltze
Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Rm 125
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Chairman Stoltze, Senate members to the State Affairs Committee,

My name is Paul A. Shadura II; I am a long time Alaskan resident and I reside within the Kenai Peninsula. Today I am representing the South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Association or SOKI. Our mission; *Protecting and preserving the Kasilof River Aquarian System.*

We respectfully agree with the Governor's appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF).

Mr. Ruffner has proven to be a person who strives to communicate with a diverse group of interests. An example of this is a letter authored by Mr. Ruffner date February 25, 2010 to then Governor Sean Parnell. Working with 16 very diverse interest groups which include the State of Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Robert was able to highlight many of the concerns of the individual groups while giving a unified voice critical for a positive result. Initial needs such as bathrooms and dumpsters were addressed and funded. For the long term; preservation of the critical dunes area, a hands on project completed by volunteers comprised of users groups not commonly seen working as a team.

Clearly, this consensus building exercise takes a great deal of patience and a deep personal concern for the resource and the needs of all resource users.

Robert Ruffner's educational background and valued field experience will add to the BOF's ability to analyze and discuss critical information. These unique attributes will further enhance communications with the Department of Fish and Game which can only result in a thorough consideration of the publics concerns in an honest and straight forward manner.

Thank you,



Paul A. Shadura II
Spokesperson for SOKI