

Confirmation:

Board

of

Fisheries



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3715

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ben Grussendorf
Speaker of the House

FROM: Representative Adelheid Herrmann, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee

DATE: April 7, 1986

SUBJECT: Board of Fisheries Confirmations

The House Resources Committee has had a confirmation hearing on the Governor's appointments to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and makes the following recommendations:

Mr. Bix Bonney

CONFIRM

DO NOT CONFIRM

NO RECOMMENDATION

<i>Adelheid Herrmann</i>	<i>Roger Jenkins</i>	<i>M.W. Miller</i>
<i>Kay Wallin</i>		<i>Rand W. Thompson</i>
<i>Alvin [unclear]</i>		<i>Harold Kerner</i>
<i>Bette Oato</i>		<i>Duke Shultz</i>
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____

Representative Ben Grussendorf
April 7, 1936
PAGE TWO

Mr. Jesse Foster

CONFIRM

DO NOT CONFIRM

NO RECOMMENDATION

Adelheid Herrmann
Kay Wallis
John L. [unclear]
Betty Cato

M.W. Miller
David W. [unclear]
Wm. [unclear]
Roger Jenkins
Dick [unclear]

Mr. Val Angasan

CONFIRM

DO NOT CONFIRM

NO RECOMMENDATION

Adelheid Herrmann
Kay Wallis
John L. [unclear]
Betty Cato

M.W. Miller
David W. [unclear]
Wm. [unclear]
Roger Jenkins
Dick [unclear]

Resume

Val N. Angasan
Box 89
Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: 842-5463

PERSONAL DATA

Birthdate: February 14, 1953
Marital Status: Married, 2 children

EDUCATION

University of Alaska, 1970 - 1974, full and part time, Majored in Business Administration and now has a total of 90 hours.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1982 - Present Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Corp., Manager
1981 - 1982 Building construction in winter and commercial fished in summer
1980 - 1981 IMARPIK Regional Aquaculture Corp., Assistant Manager
1975 - 1980 Economic Development, Bristol Bay Native Corp., Director - fished commercially in summer.

Miscellaneous Data:

Has subsistence hunted and fished.



November 29, 1982

Gov. Bill Sheffield
Sheffield Hotel
Plaza 201 E 3rd
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Bill,

I once again extend my sincere congratulations on your victory. There is no doubt in my mind that you will be one of the "Great" Governors of our State.

I would like to be kept in mind in event there is opportunity to make use of my background and expertise. I believe that I could be of significant value to you in all areas pertaining to the fisheries or subsistence problems. I, specifically, would like to sit on an Ad Hoc group involved in subsistence as related to sport users of our fish and game. I feel my longevity in our state, my interfacing with Bush groups, Commercial fishing interests and my Sport fishing and hunting advocacy would be of value to your administration. The following points may be of interest in justifying any appointments.

1. 31 years resident in Alaska
 - a. Ketchikan 1951-57
 - b. Sitka 1958-62
 - c. Kodiak 1962-75
 - d. Anchorage 1975-present .
2. 12 years in Alaska Pulp Mills Technical Department ending in 1962 as Lab Superintendent Alaska Lumber & Pulp Co., Sitka
3. 12 years fish processing business President B & B Fisheries, Inc., in Kodiak
4. 7 years executive search and management consulting, President Bonney, Garland & Co., Inc. in Anchorage
5. President Anchorage East Rotary Club
6. In depth background in both sport and commercial fishing -- Co-Chairman Kenai River Sport Fishing Association (500 members) and Board of Directors Alaska Sportfishing Association (1000 members)

Sincerely,

BONNEY, GARLAND & CO., INC.

Bix Bonney
President

Bonney, Garland & Co., Inc.

BB/ekb

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

March 13, 1986

8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Peter Goll, Chair
Representative Katie Hurley, Vice Chair
Representative David Thompson
Representative Roger Jenkins
Representative Andre Marrou
Representative Mike Navarre

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative John Binkley

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Confirmation hearings:

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES:

Val Angasan of Dillingham

Original term began 01/23/84, reappointed 02/10/86, expires
01/31/89.

Bix Bonney of Anchorage

Original term began 07/20/83, reappointed 02/10/86, expires
01/31/89.

Jesse Foster of Quinhagak

Original term began 07/20/83, reappointed 02/10/86, expires
01/31/89.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION:

Richard Listowski of Juneau

Original term began 03/15/83, reappointed 06/24/85, expires
07/01/89.

WITNESS REGISTER

Senator Vic Fischer

Alaska State Legislature

Capitol 11

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Telephone: 465-4997

Position Statement: Supports reappointment of Bix Bonney.

Randy Berg

Box 4177

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Telephone: 262-5727

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Greg Davis

18819 Spur Highway, #139

Kenai, Alaska 99611

Telephone: 262-7360

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

C. Dickson

Box 2018

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Telephone: 262-6020

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Dan Ingraham

Box 1033

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

William Gavin

Box 3628

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Telephone: 262-7746

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Nigel Guest

Box 2015

Kenai, Alaska 99611

Telephone: 262-9466

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Rodney Berg

266 Redwood Court

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Telephone: 262-6064

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Karen Callahan

Box 2015

Kenai, Alaska 99611

Telephone: 262-9466

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Jim Johnson

Box 3774

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Telephone: 262-5357

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Tim Hiner

Box 2122

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Telephone: 262-5357

Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Cheryl Sutton
Box 546
Soldotna, Alaska 99569
Telephone: 262-2492
Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney:

Phil McCrudden
Box 2271
Homer, Alaska 99604
Position Statement: Supports reappointment of Bix Bonney.

Larry Smith
Box 337
Homer, Alaska 99604
Position Statement: Supports reappointment of Bix Bonney.

Myron Mickey
Box 120
Anchor Point, Alaska
Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Thomas G. Kolasinski
5314 Sillary
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Telephone: 333-0886
Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Scott O. Sell
7140 Linden Court
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Telephone: 243-4529
Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Joe Conners
13120 Saunders Court
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
Telephone: 345-5760
Position Statement: Do not confirm Bix Bonney.

Bix Bonney
5847 DeBarr Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Telephone: 333-7406
Position Statement: "...to the best of my ability, I have done what I thought was right."

Gordon Peterson
Hoonah, Alaska
Position Statement: Supports reappointment of Bix Bonney.

Bob Blake, President
United Fishermen of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Telephone: 586-2936

Position Statement: Supports reappointment of Bix Bonney.

Dean Paddock

Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association

Position Statement: Supports reappointment of Bix Bonney.

PREVIOUS ACTION

Not applicable to this hearing.

TAPE #32 SIDE ONE

Recording

Number 000

Chairman Goll called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. He announced the calendar and asked the first witness to come forward.

Number 020

Gordon Peterson, Chairman - Hoonah Advisory Committee and Chairman - Icy Straits Trollers Association, said he would like to endorse the reappointment of Bix Bonney. Bix, he said, is a good person on the board, open minded and easy to deal with. Bix has the advantage of having worked in the processing industry and is able to bring both sport fishing and processing perspective to the Board of Fish process. I would like to see him reappointed.

Number 080

Scott O. Sell testifying from Anchorage stated he is a property owner in Kenai and would not like to see Mr. Bonney reappointed to the Board of Fish. Looking at his prior experience, I feel he should not be on the board. Most of the boards are too top heavy with government agencies and I feel more individual people should be on the board.

Number 107

Bix Bonney testified from Anchorage commenting he would like to make clear that he is on two boards: Kenai River Special Management Board (consisting of 18 members) and the Alaska Board of Fisheries. He asked the participants on the network, if they had criticisms, to state which board they were referring to. Some of the actions I have taken on the Kenai River Board, he said, has alienated certain user groups and not related to the Board of Fisheries.

Number 140

Thomas G. Kolasinski testified from Anchorage stating he is opposed to the confirmation of Bix Bonney to the Board of Fisheries. My opposition is based on Mr. Bonney's activities as a Kenai River special management area board member and as the chairman of the social and recreational committee of that board. While in those positions, Mr. Bonney has demonstrated that his personal opinions and prejudices dictate how he executes the responsibilities of the positions he holds. Scientific facts, logic, and public opinion contrary to his position seems not to alter his bias. A person who allows their preconceived ideas to override evidence to the contrary cannot act in the best interest of the people or the state. Since this position is not elected by the public, the public relies on the good judgement of our legislators to confirm responsible individuals. I am confident that after your review, you will not confirm Mr. Bonney.

Number 165

Joe Conners testifying from Anchorage stated he heard Mr. Bonney's comments and said I am familiar with his behavior, both on the Kenai River Special Management Committee and Board of Fisheries. I feel it is unfortunate that one's behavior is often exemplified across the board in various activities that one serves on. Although my comments are general, they do address Mr. Bonney's personal behavior which I feel do come up on his activities on both boards. I am extremely concerned about his basic method of operation. He tends to legislate his own personal feelings and does not represent the sports activities or the sports person. I feel he has disfranchised himself with the sports fishermen. On the issue of local sport fishing activities, he does not seek or utilize scientific or factual data, but deals in his own personal suppositions and is quick to create his own personal studies.

I personally feel he has got it in for the guides. Recent legislation before the fishery board taking away two days a week for the guides in May and June. In effect, it hurts a lot of people. I am totally opposed to the confirmation of Bix Bonney.

Number 216

Representative Thompson asked the witness why he feels Bix Bonney has a responsibility to represent sport fishermen more than any other group on the board of fish.

Mr. Conners replied that Mr. Bonney is from Anchorage, there tends to be a lot sport fishing interest from Anchorage and I feel that he should be concerned about what the constituents in Anchorage are concerned about.

Number 228

Randy Berg testifying from Soldotna addressed Representative Thompson that his (Berg's) understanding was that Bix Bonney was put on the board to represent sports fishermen and not his personal interest.

Number 233

Chairman Goll clarified that many people like to think of the members on the Board of Fish as representing specific interest groups. However, the law requires that appointments to the board be made without regard to their regional or political affiliation. In this context, I think, political affiliation extends to which gear group a person seems to be identified with. The board has to sit as a group of judges on issues that cross gear group lines and regional lines.

Number 248

Randy Berg continued by referring to the two boards that Mr. Bonney sits on and said there is definitely a conflict of interest. No one should serve on two boards dealing with the same problems in an area. At the October 1985 meeting of the Kenai River special management area dealing with the 35 horsepower motor limitations on the Kenai River, approximately 90% of public comments were opposed to the restriction and Bix Bonney pushed for the committee to adopt the restriction and cited that he was standing up for the silent majority. He related that Mr. Bonney also pushed for the 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. restricted hours for the guides. He has not represented the fisheries properly, he has not represented the sports fishermen, guided anglers or the guides. Therefore, I urge you not to recommend Bix Bonney for reappointed to the Board of Fisheries. In his place, I would like you to consider R. L. Parker of Soldotna to be appointed to the Board of Fisheries. Chairman Goll stated that for the reference of future witnesses, this committee has no power to appoint only to review the governor's appointees.

Number 294

Greg Davis testified from Soldotna stating Bix Bonney does not represent most sport fishermen. He expresses too many narrow views and does not serve the sports fishermen fairly.

Number 305

Larry Smith representing Kachemak Bay Subsistence Group testified from Homer saying we are sick and tired of political manipulations by the governor and the

legislature. We think Mr. Bonney should be left in peace and the state should not get involved in the war among sports fishermen. We want the governor and the legislature to keep your hands off the boards. Responding to Representative Marrou, Mr. Smith said we have no quarrel with anyone on the boards.

Number 343

C. Dickson testifying from Soldotna urged the committee to not confirm Bix Bonney on the Board of Fisheries. The reasons being he has stated publicly that he does represent all the sports fishermen and I disagree with you when you say that he was not put on that board for that purpose. Mr. Bonney personally violates the law during the summertime fishing on the Kenai River. Mr. Bonney does not represent the State of Alaska as a whole.

Number 380

Senator Vic Fischer testified in support of Bix Bonney's reappointment to the Board of Fisheries. I have known Bix since the days he was in Kodiak and played a major role in strengthening the fisheries. I have worked with him in the context of statewide fisheries development meetings where he demonstrated broad and comprehensive concepts of the needs of the state. I have watched his work on the fisheries board for the last several years and have been impressed with his total commitment to giving people the opportunity to fish including sports fishermen. I respect Bix Bonney for his positions and he is the kind of person Alaska and, certainly, Anchorage should have representing them on the board.

Number 421

Dan Ingraham testified from Soldotna saying Bix Bonney has done a poor job representing people on the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage. Mr. Bonney has used his position for his personal gain and I recommend not to reinstate Bix on the Board of Fisheries. I hope you take today's testimony into consideration.

Number 430

Representative Hurley asked Mr. Ingraham to clarify his statements that Bix Bonney has used his position for personal gain. The witness said the fact is that he serves on two boards and likes to fish on the river by himself.

Number 439

William Gavin testified from Soldotna saying he is totally opposed to Bix Bonney on the Board. I have been watching

Mr. Bonney's career on boards for the past few years and I am ashamed that someone can be that prejudiced against river guides and participate on all those boards. At the last Kenai River advisory board meeting, it was evident that he was prejudiced when he referred to us guides as "river rattle."

Number 454

Nigel Guest testifying from Soldotna said he is a sport fisherman on the Kenai and supports the idea of a sport fisherman on the Board of Fisheries. When Bix Bonney was first appointed to the board, among with many others, I believed it was a good decision. Over the past few years, Mr. Bonney has changed, probably due to the large demands on his time by the many committees and boards he serves on. Please think carefully in making your decision on whether or not to reappoint Mr. Bonney. Please ask if he is really representing sport fishing interests and is he the same person you appointed some years ago. I think there are many better sports fishing candidates that could be appointed to this board.

Number 484

Myron Mickey, fishing guide, testifying from Homer stated Bix Bonney sits on too many boards and is not doing his job well. He does not represent the sport fishing people any more and his response to fish and game problems is often emotional. Repeated allegations that Bix is the areas biggest fish and game hog and takes over-limits on his personal sports fishing activities, may or may not be always true (I think they are true), but such repeated allegations certainly reflects on the public image of an appointed officer who is charged with upholding rules of the fish and game board. I recommend against his confirmation to the Board of Fisheries; he should be replaced.

Number 515

Chairman Goll noted letters of support from Southeast Seine Boat Owners and Operators, Representative Al Adams and Larry Cotter of the Longshoremen's Union among others as well as a stack of public opinion messages supporting reappointment.

Number 522

Tim Hiner testified from Soldotna stating Bix Bonney is not representing the people of Alaska fairly. He strives in ways to serve his own good and means on the Kenai River. We do not want Bonney on the board and believe that he

doesn't deserve the position as a representative to all Alaskans.

Number 535

Cheryl Sutton, Alaska SetNetters Association and the Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Cooperative, testifying from Soldotna said she was not in favor of reappointing Bix Bonney. One consistent complaint among every user group, she said, is his self-serving decision making.

Number 549

Chairman Goll asked Ms. Sutton to explain what she means by "self serving." She replied that Mr. Bonney uses the river, he is a fisherman on the river, and, from my understanding he abuses that privilege. He is self-serving in the aspect that he regulates more time for himself in the river and away from other user groups.

Number 559

Jim Johnson, President - Cook Inlet Professional Sport Fishing Association, testified from Soldotna that Bix Bonney is on too many boards. He said he agreed with previous testimony that Mr. Bonney has followed his own personal agenda on the Kenai River. The state has chosen to discriminate between guided and non-guided sports fishermen by regulation. At this time, we have no voice on the Board of Fisheries. I ask that you not confirm Bix Bonney to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Number 580

Rodney Berg testified from Soldotna saying he is opposed to the reappointment of Bix Bonney because he legislates his personal feelings against certain user groups based on no scientific evidence. He serves on too many committees which indicates a conflict of interest. What regulations failing one committee, he tries to push through on one of his other committees. He doesn't represent the majority of the people and user groups. He represents his own personal interest. I am opposed to Bix Bonney's reappointment to the Board of Fisheries.

Number 590

Karen Callahan testified from Soldotna saying she is opposed to the reappointment of Bix Bonney because he divides his interest and time between too many board and committee positions. I believe that Mr. Bonney is more interested in fulfilling his own self interest and not that of the southcentral fishermen. I have observed his actions on several committees and have seen him become defensive

and belligerent at ideas and suggestions opposed to his own. I feel someone other than Mr. Bonney should be appointed.

Number 600

Phil McCrudden, President - North Pacific Fishermen's Association, testified from Homer stating his concern that any member of the board should not be held hostage to any one particular user group. He asked the committee to look at the board members conduct and not at the decisions that are made. Everybody on the board makes decisions that someone will not agree with.

Number 627

Bob Blake, President - United Fishermen of Alaska, stated his support of the reappointment of Bix Bonney,

CHANGE TAPE SIDE TWO

Number 000

Bob Blake continued saying during the time he served on the Board of Fisheries he had the opportunity to observe Mr. Bonney. During that term, I felt that Bix Bonney represented sports fish first, and subsistence and commercial use second. His primary interest is sport fish, that is why he was appointed and I feel he has done a very adequate job. Nobody can sit on the board without having, at some point in time, various user groups mad at you. For a point of interest, it seems there is a lot of negative testimony from the guides on the Kenai River and that's not surprising. The year that I was on the Board of Fisheries, the big issue was limiting the commercial fishery of Kenai River king salmon and that year the commercial fishermen were against Bix and the guides supported him wholeheartedly.

Number 073

Dean Paddock, Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association, testified in support of the reappointment of the board members before the committee. I feel that the personal actions and behavior of Bix Bonney should not be the issue here. He is the governor's appointee and he should sit on the board. On a scale of 1 - 10, Bix Bonney rates very high. If anyone wants a board member removed they should go to the governor and let him weild the axe because that is where the buck stops.

Number 130

Representative Thompson addressed Bix Bonney and asked him if he was in fact appointed to represent sport fishing interests. Bix Bonney responded that he is an avid sport fisherman. It might be of interest to know, the board was sued and I was sued as being prejudiced toward sport fishermen and, at the same time, I am being accused by the guides of not representing their interests. By and large, I represent the expertise of sport fishing on the Board of Fisheries.

Number 242

Representative Jenkins addressed Mr. Bonney asking him if it was his intention to look at the problems on the lower Kenai River, below the bridge, and attempt to solve those problems. Mr. Bonney replied in the affirmative. Representative Jenkins continued by asking "what other goals did you have?" Mr. Bonney answered the board was given three primary goals: (1) to implement the establishment of a special management area, a unit of the state park service; (2) to protect and perpetuate the fish and wildlife habitat; and (3) manage the recreation and development uses. He elaborated, under the first segment regarding the implementation of a plan, we were assigned the responsibility to designate incompatible uses in the Kenai management area and, specifically, we were designated to establish guide regulations in that same area.

Number 263

Representative Jenkins asked if these goals were part of the law or the intention of state parks. Bix Bonney said this was by statute. Representative Jenkins continued a line of questioning regarding protection of the fisheries in the Kenai River area.

Number 300

Representative Jenkins asked Mr. Bonney if he had any preconceived notions regarding the 35 horsepower limit and asked him to explain. Mr. Bonney said he advocated limiting horsepower mainly because big wakes made it difficult for families and small boats to be on the river.

Number 329

Bix Bonney said, "to the best of my ability, I have done what I thought was right and I have spent a lot of time on it." "I am only on two boards, he said." "I can go along with all the things the guides have said today because I was instrumental in establishing those restrictions, but I do take offense to the testimony of Mr. Dickson."

Mr. Bonney concluded by saying "I ask for your support and I can do a good job."

Number 369

Representative Thompson explained to participants on the teleconference network the procedure of a confirmation hearing. This is the governor's appointment to make and he has made it, it is the legislature's role to confirm or reject that appointment.

Number 409

Representative Marrou related that he had received 23 messages regarding Mr. Bonney, 9 public opinion messages, 2 telephone calls and 12 from a teleconference on February 24th. Of these 23, 19 are against Mr. Bonney, 4 are in favor. Today, 15 out of 19 participants are against him and 4 are for him, all in favor are from Juneau. Representative Marrou said he took objection to a letter of support from members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Representatives Marrou and Jenkins stated their vote would reflect testimony heard today.

Number 469

Chairman Goll said he felt Bix Bonney had brought an expertise on sport fishing issues to the Board of Fisheries and elaborated.

In terms of advocating or perpetuating the resource and assuring that our streams are well protected and representing the interests of all fishermen in regards to assuring sustained yields, Mr. Bonney has been one of the most exemplary and outspoken advocates of sports fish that I have ever known. I would recommend him to the sports fish community as someone who has done a great deal to add to their credibility among commercial fishing groups and subsistence groups and has helped draw the fishing community together rather than divide it. I do support his confirmation, and I say that as a representative from Haines, and not as chairman of the committee.

Number 505

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

The House Special Committee on Fisheries has considered confirmations to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and makes the following recommendations:

Mr. Eix Bonney

CONFIRM:

Rep. Peter Goll, Chairman
Rep. Katie Hurley

DO NOT CONFIRM:

Rep. Andre Marrou
Rep. Roger Jenkins

NO RECOMMENDATION:

Rep. Dave Thompson
Rep. Mike Navarre

Mr. Jesse Foster

CONFIRM:

Rep. Peter Goll, Chairman
Rep. Katie Hurley
Rep. Mike Navarre
Rep. John Binkley

DO NOT CONFIRM:

(none)

NO RECOMMENDATION:

Rep. Dave Thompson
Rep. Andre Marrou
Rep. Roger Jenkins

Mr. Val Angasan

CONFIRM:

Rep. Peter Goll, Chairman
Rep. Katie Hurley
Rep. Mike Navarre
Rep. John Binkley

DO NOT CONFIRM:

(none)

NO RECOMMENDATION:

Rep. Dave Thompson
Rep. Andre Marrou
Rep. Roger Jenkins