

SCOMM

102:1

# RUSSELL S. NELSON

2028 Woodriver Road, P.O. Box 161 · Dillingham, Alaska 99576 · Telephone: 907-842-2370

## OBJECTIVE

Board Member, State of Alaska, Board of Fisheries

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

### ALASKA NATIVE LEADERSHIP PROJECT

*Sponsored by Bristol Bay Native Corporation and administered by the Alaska Native Foundation in cooperation with Alaska Pacific University.*

- Grade Point Average for the duration of the project was 4.0
- Development of leadership skills in the areas of management, politics and culture.
- Areas of study included grant writing, role of Alaska Natives in the Alaska political structure, development of business entrepreneurial skills and social issues relevant to Alaskan natives.

### TRAINING WITHOUT WALLS

*Sponsored by Bristol Bay Native Corporation and Choggiung Limited using the Growth Company.*

- Two executive management training sessions a year with The Growth Company.
- Monthly professional development and career coaching.
- Professional networking with people who can make a difference to your career.

## EXPERIENCE

### CHOGGIUNG LIMITED

*Land Manager*

*April 15, 1997 to present*

- Maintain land records.
- Manage land programs i.e. 14(c), lease, land use permit, subdivision, and gravel.
- Provide and/or solicit expertise in land development projects.
- Coordinate with other Native Corporations and resource agencies on land related programs or issues.
- Management of land related consulting agreements as necessary.
- Advise management on issues of importance.
- Submit anticipated operating budget needs and capital expense requests.
- Organize Land Committee meetings.
- Routine reports to Land Committee and/or Board of Directors
- Work with management and staff on training and improve skills in area of expertise.

## RESUME

### DR. JOHN R. WHITE

P.O. Box 190  
Bethel, AK 99559

Phone (907)543-3778 (work)  
Phone (907)543-2926 (home)  
Fax (907)543-5441

#### Present Employment:

Commercial Salmon Fisherman  
Kuskokwim area  
1974 to present

Owner, Bering Sea Dental Center  
P.O. Box 190  
Bethel, AK 99559

#### Experience for position:

Twenty-one year resident of Alaska and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Actively engaged in commercial, subsistence, and sport fish harvest for the same years. Bachelor's degree in biology.

Present Board Director and President: Salmon Research Foundation.

Present member and chair: Alaska Board of Fish.

Present member and chair: Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

Past member: Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee.

Past member and chair: Western Alaska Salmon Coalition.

Past member: Governor Cowper's Board of Fish Review Committee.

Past member and chair: Governor Cowper's Advisory Group on Ending High Seas Salmon Interception.

Past Board Director: Bering Sea Commercial Fisheries Development Foundation.

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

*Environmental Coordinator*

*October 3, 1995 to April 14, 1997*

- Traveled to villages of Bristol Bay to work closely with village councils.
- Conduct an assessment of the environmental problems and issues in Bristol Bay villages.
- Supervise all BBNA environmental programs and lead inspectors.
- Fulfilled all reports required in compliance with federal regulations.
- Track budgets for all BBNA Environmental Programs.

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

*Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council Executive Director*

*November 7, 1995 to April 14, 1997*

- Meetings with BBMMC, Qayassiq Walrus Commission, State of Alaska Subsistence Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Make travel and room arrangements for Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council (BBMMC) and Qayassiq Walrus Commission and calculate per diem.
- Documented beluga throughout winter in the Nushagak Bay, Kvichak Bay and off Goose Point at Eggegik.

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

*Regional Land Use Specialist*

*August 30, 1993 to October 3, 1995*

- Assisted Bristol Bay Village Councils in developing federal subsistence proposals.
- Submit Subsistence Proposals to the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Board.
- Defend Subsistence Proposals at Federal Subsistence Board meetings.
- Worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Subsistence Division to develop a Fresh Water Fish / Large Land Mammal Survey Contract.
- Developed a contract with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird section to conduct a Migratory Bird Subsistence Survey in the Northern Bristol Bay region.
- Hired and trained village residents to conduct fresh water fish and migratory bird surveys.
- Wrote an Environmental Protection Agency, Indian General Assistance Grant and was funded for BBNA to start an Environmental Program.
- Was awarded a continuing Environmental Agency, Indian General Assistance grant for the 1997 fiscal year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- |                                                       |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| • Nushagak Advisory Council Member                    | September 1997 to Present : (Fish + Game A/C) |
| • Dillingham City Planning Commission Member          | February 1998 to Present                      |
| • Choggiung Limited, Board of Directors               | 1981- 1991                                    |
| • Choggiung Limited, Board of Directors               | March 1996-May 1997                           |
| • Dillingham Native Village Council, Chief            | 1981-1991                                     |
| • Rural Alaska Television Network, Board of Directors | 1983 to 1991                                  |
| • Rural Alaska Television Network, President          | 1991 to 1995                                  |
| • Alaska Rural Communications Service, President      | 1995 to Present                               |

- Dillingham Volunteer Crash Rescue Squad 1978-1982
- Dillingham Volunteer Fire Department 1977-1982
- Alaska Army National Guard, Honorable Discharge 1989-1992

## HONORS

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- Department of the Army, The Army Achievement Medal

## SKILLS

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- Commercial Pilot's License
- Former Togiak Herring Spotter
- Former Nushagak Bay Salmon Spotter
- Former Factory Engineer on F/V Excellence, a 362 ft. Factory Trawler in Bering Sea.
- Former Bristol Bay Commercial Drift Fishing Partner for 15 years

## REFERENCES

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HARVEY SAMUELSEN

P.O. Box 18

DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576

PHONE: (907) 842-5625

FRED TORRISI, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

P.O. Box 210

DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576

PHONE: (907) 842-2050

JUDI NELSON, CEO - BBEDC

P.O. Box 36

DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576

PHONE: (907) 842-5350



**Testimony to the  
House Fisheries Committee  
April 8, 1998  
By Ron Rainey  
Kenai River Sportfishing Association**

Representative Austerman, members of the House Fisheries Committee, I am Ron Rainey and I am speaking as a member of the Board of Directors for the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. We support the confirmation of Dr. John White and Russell Nelson to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As the chairman of the board, Dr. White is establishing the groundwork through the sustainable fisheries project to ensure Alaska's salmon resources are managed in a manner that will provide sustainable salmon returns for generations to come. His dedication to this process is unfaltering. It is a project that will benefit not only the resource but all users, whether they are subsistence, sport, personal use or commercial. Dr. White's grasp of fisheries issues and the ramifications those issues have upon the spawning grounds is unsurpassed. The knowledge of this symbiotic relationship has earned him the respect of fisheries scientists and lay fishermen.

Yet, the sustainable fisheries project is far from finished. A second term on the board will allow Dr. White to bring to fruition this most worthwhile effort.

We also support Dillingham resident Russell Nelson for the Board of Fisheries. As you know, there is nowhere in the world like Bristol Bay for harvesting sockeye salmon. On average, the tributaries of the Bay produce the largest returns of sockeye in the world. Because of this unique status, every governor since Jay Hammond in 1974 has placed a representative from the Bay on the Board of Fisheries. Russell Nelson will continue this rich tradition.

A former Bristol Bay commercial drift fisherman for 15 years and former herring and salmon spotter pilot, Mr. Nelson is currently the land manager for Choggiung Limited in Dillingham. In that position, he is exposed to the importance of sport fishing opportunity.

He is a man of high integrity and has the respect of those in the Bay and in the Native community, as shown by the letters of support he has garnered. They include, among others, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, the Bristol Bay Native Association, the Bristol Bay Sportsfishing Association, the Association of Village Council Presidents, Kawerak, Inc., the Lake and Peninsula Borough and his employer Choggiung Limited.

Mr. Nelson is an avid supporter of the sustainable fisheries project. When appointed he will be committed toward working with his board colleagues in developing a project that will preserve the state's salmon resources for his children and their grandchildren.

You could not find more qualified candidates, with the breath of support, as that of Dr. John White and Mr. Russell Nelson. We urge their confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

*The Sportfishing Voice of the Kenai River*

TOTAL P.01

*Executive Director*  
Ben Ellis  
P.O. Box 4228  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
Phone: (907) 262-8588  
1-800 478 0724  
Fax: (907) 262-8582

|                                          |                    |              |            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 |                    | # of pages 1 |            |
| To                                       | House of Fisheries | From         | Ron Rainey |
| Co.                                      |                    | Co.          |            |
| Dept.                                    |                    | Phone #      | 283-4333   |
| Fax #                                    | 465-4956           | Fax #        | 283 4595   |

**UCIDA****UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389

(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306 e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

April 8, 1998

via Fax: 465-4956

Representative Alan Austerman, Chair  
House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol, Room 434  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)

Dear Representative Austerman:

United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents the 585 salmon drift permit holders in Upper Cook Inlet. Some 350 permit holders are current members of our association. UCIDA is also active at the state and federal levels as a member of the Executive Committee of United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA).

UCIDA supports the confirmation of Mr. Russell Nelson and opposes the confirmation of Dr. John White for the Board of Fisheries (BOF).

UCIDA recognizes the salmon fishery in Bristol Bay as the world's largest producer of sockeye salmon. In addition, we note that the fishery involves thousands of fishermen and the management is highly complex. Accordingly, we feel that it is appropriate for someone familiar with the fishery, local communities and local issues be appointed to the BOF.

Mr. Nelson's varied background as a land manager, herring and salmon spotter, engineer of a large vessel and past drift fishermen will hopefully serve him well as a BOF member.

UCIDA opposition to Dr. White's confirmation is based on two factors.

- 1) The BOF needs a better "balance" both in terms of regional and user-groups expertise. Efforts by many organizations to convince Governor Knowles to seek a better "balance" on the BOF have clearly not produced that result.

April 8, 1998  
Page Two

If both Mr. Russell and Dr. White are confirmed the "balance" on the BOF would have:

- Six of seven board members involved with sport, terminal or in-river fisheries,
  - Six of seven board members involved with fisheries from Anchorage north, and
  - Only one of seven board members with extensive experience as a fishermen in non-salmon commercial marine fisheries.
- 2) Dr. Whites's sense of "public process" has been very controversial. This result is perhaps inevitable when a board is not comprised of individuals with widely varying backgrounds and experience in Alaska's complex fisheries.

Issues that have produced the most controversy among the public and advisory committees in our area include:

- Out of cycle board generated allocation proposals targeting Cook Inlet's commercial fisheries,
- Board generated allocation proposals asking the public to submit proposals to limit harvest by non-resident anglers,
- A fast track "Sustainable Fisheries Project" employing controversial contractors, and
- Recent actions by the BOF to remove a scheduled Cook Inlet hearing from the Kenai/Soldotna area based on perceived "safety" concerns.

In conclusion, UCIDA appreciated the willingness of Dr. White to continue to serve on the BOF. However, it is our conclusion that a better "balance" of regional and user-group expertise on the BOF is needed.

UCIDA appreciates this opportunity to comment and requests that you distribute our comments to committee members.

Sincerely,

  
Phil Squires  
President

PS/ra

# BSFA

## Bering Sea Fishermen's Association



725 Christensen Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 279-6519  
FAX (907) 258-6688

*Serving western Alaska small boat fisheries since 1980*

April 8, 1998

Representative Alan Austerman  
Chairman, Alaska House Fisheries Committee  
Alaska House  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-11822

Re: Reappointment of Dr. John White to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Representative Austerman:

We heartily endorse Dr. White for reappointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. During his tenure he has worked diligently to keep the Board headed in the direction of rational management and fair allocation of the fisheries resources of this state. And as chairman of the Board he has initiated a "committee" system that also brings a modicum of sweet reason and overall involvement in the allocation hurly-burly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and if you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jude Henzler".

Jude Henzler  
Executive Director

cc: Senate House Fisheries Committee Members  
BSFA Board Members  
Dr. John White

# Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 63 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska  
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

April 8, 1998

The Honorable Alan Austerman  
Special Committee on Fisheries, Chairman  
State Capitol  
Mail Stop 3101, Room 434  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Sent via facsimile to : (907) 465-4956

Dear Representative Austerman:

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) would like to comment on the upcoming confirmation hearings for reappointment of Dr. John White to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). CDFU requests Dr. White not be confirmed by the legislature to this seat for the reasons that follow:

## Out of Cycle Determinations

As chairman of the Board of Fisheries for the last year, Dr. White has accepted agenda change requests that did not fall into the guidelines set out for the BOF to follow. The Prince William Sound/Copper River District completed their board cycle in December of 1996. Since that time, the BOF allowed discussion of numerous agenda items which were relative to our district. CDFU, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and concerned resource users have had to travel extensively to track and testify on these issues. It is not in the best interest of anyone, budget constraints as they are, to be forced to respond to proposals out of cycle.

## The Sustainable Fisheries Project

The Sustainable Fisheries Project initiated by Dr. White was an enormous undertaking that was put on a fast track without sufficient thought and consideration. Changing the management of Alaskan fisheries by use of a simplistic point system is frankly, not good science. The lack of local knowledge contained in the project and the incomplete overview of the history of the salmon fisheries is unacceptable when creating this new management style.

## Imbalance of Boardmembers

There is a clear imbalance on the BOF. Only one boardmember has significant non-salmon commercial fishing experience. Another important element is the lack of a true statewide representation. One member is from Southeast Alaska with the remaining residing in the Kenai Peninsula and north. No check and balance exists for impartial application of allocation.

## Hatchery Production Levels

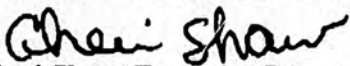
Dr. White took the BOF into the hatchery production level arena where there is already a mechanism in place to set levels via the Regional Planning Team. There seems to be no bounds for the BOF under his leadership. Dr. White has no compunction about going beyond the scope and intent of the BOF.

**CDFU Comments Re: Dr. John White BOF Reappointment**  
**April 8, 1998**  
**Page -2-**

The BOF is huge commitment for anyone to make. We respect Dr. White for his eagerness to remain a board member. However, CDFU feels it is in the best interest of the appointment process to provide a fair balance.

Please give weight to the above comments when considering the confirmation of Dr. John White to the BOF. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
**CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED**

  
Cheri Shaw, Executive Director

cc: United Fishermen of Alaska



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

April 7, 1998

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907/586-2820  
Fax: 907/463-2545  
E-Mail: ufa@alaska.net

Representative Alan Austerman  
Special Committee on Fisheries  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

APR 07 1998

Dear Representative Austerman:

We are writing in regard to the reappointment of Dr. John White to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents over twenty commercial fishing organizations throughout the state. Our group represents the diversity of Alaska's fishing industry, and when brought together, it creates informed meaningful discussion and brings forth a wide range of views. Given the complexity of many fisheries issues, this is a vital element for good decision making.

We believe this element is missing from the current Board of Fisheries and our industry is suffering in its absence. The policies and policy direction established by the Board are crucial to our future. The lack of experience and understanding this Board possesses with regard to salt water commercial fisheries is truly alarming. The willingness of this Board to pursue policy objectives, with broad implications and without a thorough open public process, is also a source of great concern.

We have seen an erosion of public support for the Board of Fisheries. Commercial fishermen throughout the state have lost confidence in the ability of this Board to render balanced decisions and lead a balanced discussion on major statewide policy issues. For example, the manner in which the sustainable fisheries project has been handled and the debate surrounding the role of the Board in setting hatchery production levels. UFA believes it is extremely important to bring about a balance of experience and knowledge to the Board of Fisheries.

Toward that end, by a unanimous vote of those present, the UFA Board voted to not endorse reappointment of Dr. John White. The perspective Dr. White brings to the Board is more than adequately covered by existing

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

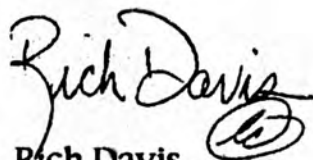
Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen  
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association  
North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest Setnetters Association • Peninsula Marketing Association  
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative  
Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

members. This Board clearly needs the input that someone more familiar with marine fisheries could provide.

The UFA Board stands ready to work with the Governor's office and the Legislature to bring forward for your consideration, a list of candidates, which will be an asset to the State and to the Board of Fisheries process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

Rich Davis

President-elect and Chair, Board of Fisheries Committee  
United Fishermen of Alaska

David R. Martin  
HC-2 Box 860  
Clam Gulch, Ak. 99568  
April 3, 1998

Alaska Legislator  
Juneau, Alaska

APR 07 1998

Dear *Representative Allan Austerman*

Tony Knowles has reappoint John White for three more years on the Board of Fish. I would strongly recommend that the legislature DO NOT confirm Dr. White's reappointment. The local fish and Game Advisory Committee and public process and trust in the BOF system has been greatly eroded under Dr. White's chairmanship. I do not believe there will be any credibility to the BOF process if we continue in the way Dr. White has been proceeding with his dictatorship manner.

I am the chairman of the Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee in Ninilchik, but this letter is my own although many Board members and the public share my concerns and recommendation. Even Department of Fish and Game personnel have told me privately, they do not want Dr. White reappointed.

I have been involved in the Advisory Committee and BOF process for 23 years and chair an the last 5 years and believe in and am trying to uphold and strengthen this process.

Under Dr. White's tenure and chairmanship, on the BOF, we in Cook Inlet last year, which was an out of cycle year for Cook Inlet, attended four meetings trying to stop implementation of Board of Fish generated allocation proposals that the BOF was not even going to allow oral public testimony on. This was a total disregard and slap in the face for the Advisory Committees, the public and was stepping way over bounds in an abuse of the BOF's power.

Dr. White has continually told the Department of Fish and Game that he doesn't believe their professional scientific and biological data on the salmon resource management, habitat protection, escapement goals and biological escapement goals. Many times he has supported regulation that is in opposition to this data and the Department's recommendations and therefor against the biological management that will result in less than maximum sustained yields. This is not being a responsible steward of the resource for the people.

Under his chairmanship the Board has awarded unprecedented numbers of Agenda Change Request that are strictly allocation. Under the Boards own criteria an agenda change request should only be awarded if there is a conservation concern never awarded for allocation. That is what the three years cycle is for. Yet he has awarded these agenda change request even though the Department of F&G says there is no conservation concerns. This practice nullifies the three year Board cycle for the area. The three year cycle was established to bring stability to the fisheries and decrease the burden on the Advisory Committees, the local public, the Department and the BOF.

Dr. White's latest maneuver is to appoint subcommittees at the BOF meeting to work on each and every proposal and then give their recommendation to the full Board. This new maneuver will displace the Advisory Committee reports and the public testimony input along with staff reports. The subcommittee members are appointed by the Chairman and are only from the pool of people that are able to spend weeks attending the meetings. Subcommittees are fine if used, as they have been used in the past, on a contentious issue. This new subcommittee process will totally erode the Advisory Committee and public involvement and trust. The Advisory Committees are already the subcommittees of the Board and with representation from the local public of the area, they address each and every proposal usually taking 5 or 6 meetings to do so.

Dr. White's extremely fast push to develop a Sustainable fisheries management policy without the involvement of the Department of Fish and Game, the Advisory Committees and public input is yet another example of his dictatorship approach. Another example is the smokescreen to exclude the local public in participating in the next Cook Inlet meeting by saying they couldn't hold the meeting in the Kenai / Soldotna area because of security reasons. Let's get real!

These are only a few examples to support my request that you DO NOT confirm Dr. White to another three year term on the BOF.

This is no way to manage Alaska fisheries. These unprecedented deviations from the BOF process will erode the process itself, the Department, and the resource. We cannot let this happen.

There are other capable people in Alaska to occupy this seat who will promote and uphold the Advisory Committee, public and BOF process and who will maintain and strengthen the public trust and involvement in this process. They also will make darn sure our fisheries resources are managed biologically, not politically, so as to continue this abundant resource for future generations. We only have one chance, we don't want to end up like the lower 48 with little or no salmon.

Thank you for your time and consideration. The ball is in the Legislator's court. Please score for the public process and the resource.

Sincerely,



David R. Martin

cc; Representative Gary Davis  
Representative Mark Hodgins  
Representative Gail Phillips  
Representative Allan Austerman  
Senator John Torgerson  
Senator Jerry Ward

*To the Attention of  
Representative Austerman.*

Gail Phillips  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Gail

APR 07 1998

These notes are to follow up on a phone call to your office on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1998.

This is to inform you of our opposition to the confirmation of the appointment of John White to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Mr. White has shown in his prior term a complete lack of regard for the Board of Fish process and the complete disregard of the public and Advisory Committee participation in the process.

Mr. White has developed a new system of his own that he says is the way he will continue to operate in the future which leaves the public and all of the Advisory Committee work to be lost in his new process.

Mr. White says that all proposals must pass through another layer of committee at the Board of Fish meetings leaving all who cannot attend (due to any number of reasons) unable to participate in what is supposed to be a public process.

Mr. White also has told Advisory Committees and the public that they must be in a position and ready to negotiate rather than give testimony based on their committees findings at prior public meetings.

Since Mr. White in his wisdom of this new process will also have many meetings of his self appointed committees on all of the issues before the board going on simultaneously it will be impossible to attend all of the meetings and hear all of the staff reports and give meaningful comments to the sub committees.

Since no voice recording plan has been put into place for Mr. Whites new process it will fall upon the sub committee and or one or two board members to make whatever decision it may deem appropriate and report its findings to the full board for it rubber stamp.

The Kenai Soldotna Advisory Committee does not think it is proper for Mr. White to reinvent the process that was put in place many years ago and even though it may be cumbersome it has worked very well over time.

The latest scam pulled by Mr. White about not having the Board meeting in Soldotna due to security problems is totally un called for and just shows the true colors of this Board of Fish and its lack of regard for the public and the public process.

Even though we have made then back down from that decision what does it mean when we are now faced with a split board meeting.

Does the Mat-Su portion of the meeting come first or last?

Do we have to travel to the Mat-Su to give Advisory committee testimony?

Where do the Sub Committees come from under Mr. Whites new plan and where are the sub committee meetings going to be held?

Where does the Board deliberate on proposals?

Mr. White and other Board members mention something about needing a level playing field to conduct business that probably affects the Kenai Peninsula and its residents more than any other group and they don't want participation from the group that their decisions will affect the most.

It is time to say no to an out of control Board of Fish and its out of control Chairman Mr White

Edward N. Krohn



Chairman Kenai / Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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**Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
211 Mission Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615**

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March 19, 1998



**MAR 31 1998**

Board Of Fish  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board Support Section  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Dear Sirs:

The Kodiak Advisory Committee (KAC) is troubled with the State Board of Fish's (BOF) use of sub-committees and standing committees at the Board level and voted to send this letter outlining concerns that surfaced during the past year.

**OUR CONCERNS ARE:**

- (1) The sub-committee adds another layer to the process. Advisory committees try to bring different user groups to consensus at the local level. This is a negotiation process. It is feared that groups will not try to reach consensus locally if there is another layer of negotiation when they reach the Board level.
- (2) If more than one sub-committee meeting were being conducted at the same time it is possible that an AC representative might be required to make a choice as to which sub-committee they attended. Representation of the local people could be jeopardized.
- (3) Advisory committee representatives could be placed in the position of having to negotiate rather than reporting the findings, the reasons, and the process of their advisory committee.
- (4) Since no voice recording is kept of the sub-committee hearings and the report is brought back to the Board by one member of the Board, there is the potential for one or two board members to steer the sub-committee and thereby unduly influence the decision of the Board.
- (5) There is no review of the report from the sub-committee by the members of that sub-committee and no point at which the members could question the interpretation of the reporter.
- (6) The Board has a record of supporting the recommendations that come out of the sub-committees. This gives the individual, that reports to the Board, inordinate power and could lead to the appearance of bias reporting and manipulation.
- (7) The use of standing committees such as the Sustainable Fisheries Committee

make it difficult, if not impossible, for the advisory committees to respond in a timely manner and may push the affected public out of the regulatory process.

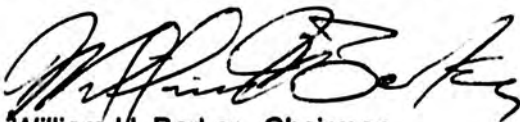
(8) There is the inherent danger that any board generated proposals will be viewed as heavy handed. The board becomes judge, jury and executioner.

**OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:**

- (1) A written policy should be developed as to how sub-committee should operate.
- (2) The reports from the advisory committees should be given more weight in the deliberation, especially when the advisory committee represents all of the user groups.
- (3) The chair of the Board should check with advisory committee representatives to make sure that there are not conflicts in sub-committee meetings.
- (4) In sub-committees, advisory committee representatives should be cautioned to try to represent the majority of their local committee and not their own views.
- (5) Voice recordings should be made of all sub-committee and standing committee meetings.
- (6) Sub-committee members should be given the opportunity to comment on the report before the Board deliberates.
- (7) Board members should act as information gathers and not express views which could influence the discussion or which could be construed as the view of the Board.
- (8) Recommended changes that come from a standing committees should be subject to the same public review process and time lines that any proposed regulation change is subjected.

This letter has been reviewed by a majority of the Kodiak Advisory Committee, and is being sent to the chair of all active advisory committees.

Thank you for your consideration.



William H. Barker, Chairman  
Kodiak Advisory Committee

cc. Governor, Tony Knowles  
Senator, Jerry Mackie  
Representative, Alan Austerman  
All Advisory Committee Chairpersons



March 25, 1998

*File for Hearings!*  
MAR 30 1998

Honorable Representative Austerman  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 434  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman:

The Board of Directors of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association supports the confirmation of Dr. John White, of Bethel, and Russell Nelson, of Dillingham, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As the chairman of the board, Dr. White is establishing the groundwork through the sustainable fisheries project to ensure Alaska's salmon resources are managed in a manner that will provide sustainable salmon returns for generations to come. His dedication to this process is unfaltering. It is a project that will benefit not only the resource but also all users, whether they are subsistence, sport, personal use or commercial. Dr. White's grasp of fisheries issues and the ramifications those issues have upon the spawning grounds is unsurpassed. The knowledge of this symbiotic relationship has earned him the respect of fisheries scientists and lay fishermen.

Yet, the sustainable fisheries project is far from finished. A second term on the board will allow Dr. White to bring to fruition this most worthwhile effort.

We also support Dillingham resident Russell Nelson for the Board of Fisheries. As you know, there is nowhere in the world like Bristol Bay for harvesting sockeye salmon. On average, the tributaries of the Bay produce the largest returns of sockeye in the world. Because of this unique status, every governor since Jay Hammond in 1974 has placed a representative from the Bay on the Board of Fisheries. Russell Nelson will continue this rich tradition.

A former Bristol Bay commercial drift fisherman for 15 years and former herring and salmon spotter pilot, Mr. Nelson is currently the land manager for Choggiung Limited in Dillingham. In that position, he is exposed to the importance of sport fishing opportunity.

He is a man of integrity and has the respect of those in the Bay and in the Native community, as shown by the letters of support he has garnered. They include, among others, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, the Bristol Bay Native Association, the Bristol Bay Sportsfishing Association, the Association of Village Council Presidents, Kawerak, Inc., the Lake and Peninsula Borough and his employer Choggiung Limited.

Mr. Nelson is an avid supporter of the sustainable fisheries project. He is committed toward working with his board colleagues in developing a project that will preserve the state's salmon resources for his children and their grandchildren.

You could not find more qualified appointees, with the breath of support, as that of Dr. John White and Mr. Russell Nelson. We urge you to confirm them to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Ben Ellis  
Executive Director  
Kenai River Sportfishing Association

*Executive Director*  
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March 13, 1998

Governor Tony Knowles  
P. O. Box 11001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

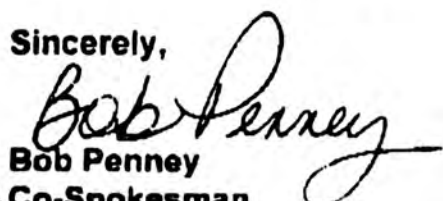
Dear Governor,

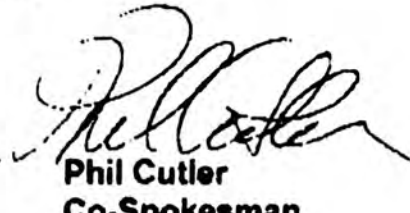
Please accept this letter as an enthusiastic endorsement for the reappointment of Doctor John White to the Board of Fisheries. We believe history will prove that Dr. White will be the best Chairman that Board has ever had. He hasn't just looked at today's issues, but also has looked at our long range needs. His plan for Sustainable Fisheries Management is a needed blueprint to protect stocks for future generations of Alaskans. It is far reaching and farsighted in its scope, as well as brilliantly designed.

We are also quite excited that Russell Nelson of Dillingham has agreed to commit a large portion of his time to serving on this Board. He appears to us to be very knowledgeable and will serve all parts of the state fairly. He will be a great Board member. We endorse his appointment.

With these two appointments we believe Alaska would have the strongest and most competent Fish Board in recent history. We promise to work diligently for their confirmation if they are appointed and will encourage other like organizations to do the same.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Penney  
Co-Spokesman

  
Phil Cutler  
Co-Spokesman

  
Bruce Knowles  
Co-Spokesman

cc: All Legislators

BP/PC/BK/bcj

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