

Confirm.

Bd. of

Fisher.

5/3/99



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
Vice Chair: Senator Robin Taylor
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Jerry Mackie
Senator Sean Parnell
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

May 3, 1999

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

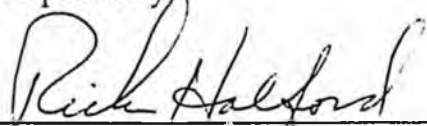
Dear Madam President,

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES:

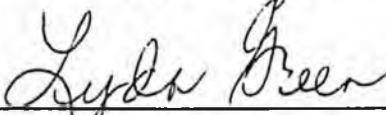
Grant Miller - Sitka

Respectfully,



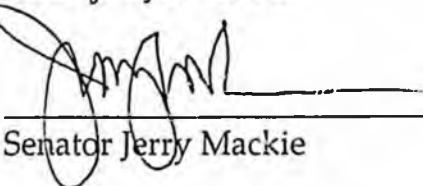
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

Senator Robin Taylor




Senator Lyda Green

Senator Pete Kelly



Senator Jerry Mackie

Senator Sean Parnell



Senator Georgianna Lincoln



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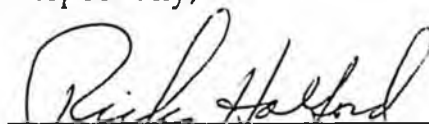
Dear Madam President,

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES:

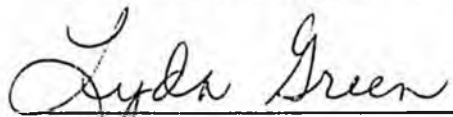
Dan Coffey - Anchorage

Respectfully,



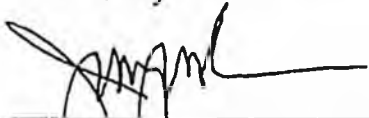
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

Senator Robin Taylor



Senator Lyda Green

Senator Pete Kelly



Senator Jerry Mackie

Senator Sean Parnell



Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
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Senator Georgianna Lincoln

May 3, 1999

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Madam President,

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES:
Virgil Umphenour - Fairbanks

Respectfully,

Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

Senator Robin Taylor

Senator Lyda Green

Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Jerry Mackie

Senator Sean Parnell

Senator Georgianna Lincoln



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Office of the Secretary

STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3701
FAX: 465-2632

April 6, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Halford, Chair
Resources Committee

FROM: Nancy Quinto *NQ*
Secretary of the Senate

SUBJECT: Governor's Confirmations

Pursuant to AS 39.05.080, President Pearce has referred the following names for legislative confirmation to your committee for a hearing, recommendation and report:

Board of Fisheries

Dan K. Coffey - Anchorage

Appointed: 02/12/96 Reappointed: 03/30/99 Expires: 06/30/02

Grant J. Miller - Sitka

Appointed: 02/12/96 Reappointed: 03/30/99 Expires: 06/30/02

Virgil L. Umphenour - Fairbanks

Appointed 07/22/94 Reappointed: 02/12/96, 03/30/99 Expires: 06/30/02

NQ/kw
Resumes attached

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR
governor@gov.state.ak.us



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

6
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
Fax (907) 465-3532
www.gov.state.ak.us

April 1, 1999

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 107
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Drue
Dear President Pearce:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, I submit the following names for legislative confirmation of appointment to the positions noted:

Board of Fisheries

Dan K. Coffey - Anchorage

Appointed: 02/12/96 Reappointed: 03/30/99 Expires: 06/30/02

Grant J. Miller - Sitka

Appointed: 02/12/96 Reappointed: 03/30/99 Expires: 06/30/02

Virgil L. Umphenour - Fairbanks

Appointed: 07/22/94 Reappointed: 02/12/96, 03/30/99 Expires: 06/30/02

The resumes for these appointments have been submitted to the offices of the Senate Secretary and the Chief Clerk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Knowles".

Tony Knowles
Governor

RESUME'

This Resume' is being submitted in conjunction with my application for a position on the State Board of Fisheries.

Name and Address:

Phone Numbers

Dan Kelly Coffey
207 East Northern Lights Blvd.
Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

(907) 274-3385 work
(907) 243-5464 home

I was born August 6, 1946 in Seattle, Washington. I came to Alaska with my mother 3 days later aboard an Arnold Airlines DC-3. We landed at Merrill Field on August 10, 1946. I remember nothing about the trip. I've been an Alaska resident ever since.

My occupation is as an attorney. I have been admitted to the Alaska Bar since May, 1975 so I have been at this work for over twenty (20) years. I am currently a sole practitioner employing one associate and one paralegal. My law practice is limited to commercial/real estate work with some commercial litigation with an emphasis on the purchase and sale of businesses particularly licensed businesses. Prior to opening my own office I was a partner in the lawfirm of Kay, Saville, Coffey, Hopwood and Schmidt for several years.

I am also the owner of two businesses in Anchorage; Dollar Rent a Car and Q-Zar Laser Tag and Family Entertainment Center. I also own Dollar Rent a Car in San Diego, California. In addition, I own and operate several commercial real estate properties in Anchorage. Finally, I am currently developing a residential subdivision in west Anchorage.

I am divorced and have sole custody of my three sons, Ryan, Kevin and Shane aged 11, 9 and 7. Since finishing law school I have lived continuously in Anchorage, Alaska.

I am a member of the following organizations:

- 1) Alaska Bar Association
- 2) Anchorage Home Builders Association
- 3) ARBA/CHARR

My experiences relative to fishing are as follows:

- 1) 1969-1971 worked as a commercial fisherman in Homer and Prince William Sound.
- 2) Previously represented fish processor in Bristol Bay.
- 3) In the late 1970s and early 1980s assisted numerous clients in applications for shore fisheries/tidal lands leases.

- 4) 1985-1990 owned 1/2 interest in 80 foot halibut, bottom fishing and commercial tendering boat.
- 5) Previously represented commercial fishermen involved in the Bering Sea crab fishery.
- 6) Previously represented clients in joint venture operations relative to bottom fishery.
- 7) I have been a sports fisherman, both fresh and salt water for many, many years.
- 8) My father was a founder of the Fisherman's Union in Alaska in the 1930s and 40s. He fished commercially in Bristol Bay in the days of sail boats. The goal of the Union was to allow the small commercial fisherman make a living by eliminating the fish traps controlled by Seattle based commercial processors. He was very proud of the role he played in eventually eliminating the traps.
- 9) I served on the Board of F.I.S.H., Inc which sponsored the initiative to increase the allocation of salmon to sports fishermen.

My experiences on previous governmental or public service Boards and Commissions are as follows:

- 1) Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Board, 1988-92.
- 2) Anchorage Museum Board, 1991-92.
- 3) Barrier Free Recreation Board, 1979-present.
- 4) Chairman of numerous Bar Association Fee Arbitration Panels.
- 5) Vice Chairman Governor's Task Force on Charitable Gaming.

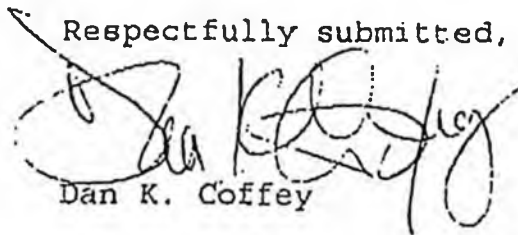
My qualifications for this position are as follows:

- 1) I am a problem solver, facilitator and a mediator. As a lawyer for twenty years, I know that the best way to resolve a difficult situation is to carefully listen to all sides, gather the facts, apply a sound criteria to the decision making process and then implement the decision in a fair and equitable manner so that all interested parties know what you are doing and why you are doing it.
- 2) I believe that reasonable solutions to difficult problems can be reached based a thorough understanding of the facts and on a willingness to engage in a dialogue with those who have differing opinions.
- 3) I have no preconceived notions about what should or should not be done. I have an open mind and a willingness to listen.
- 4) I do not represent any special interests nor do I have anything to gain from serving on the Board.

- 5) I have read the statutes establishing the Board of Fisheries, some of the regulations relative to the Board's operations and many of the cases decided by our Supreme Court relative to the duties, responsibilities and powers of the Board of Fisheries. I believe I know what is expected of the Board under the law.
- 6) Having lived in Alaska all my life, I know people all over the state in all walks of life. I can call on these people for information, for assistance and for ideas.
- 7) Having practiced as an attorney before various Boards and having sat on various Boards, I understand the public process within which the Board of Fisheries must operate.

I hope that this information is helpful to you in reaching a decision. If there is anything further which you require, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan K. Coffey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dan K. Coffey

Grant J. Miller

PO Box 6097
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-7870

Education/ Training

Rossford High School, Rossford Ohio	Graduated	1965
Ohio University, Athens Ohio		1966-67
Kildalis Navigational School, Seattle WA	Certificate	1978
Crawfords Nautical School, Seattle WA	Certificate	1991
Marine Firefighting School, Juneau AK	Certificate	1991
Radar School, Seattle WA	Certificate	1992

Employment

Commercial fishing

- Salmon Troll, Halibut Long Line, Herring Gillnet, SE Salmon Seine, Sitka, Alaska 1977-1998.
- Herring Bait Pound, Sitka, Alaska 1987-Present
- Herring Gillnet, Togiak and Norton Sound 1980-83.
- Anchovy Lampara Seine, Salmon Troll, Herring Gillnet, Sausalito, CA 1972-76
- Bottom Dragging, Scalloping, Fish trap, Lobster inshore and offshore, Cape Cod, Mass. 1966-71

Tour Boat Operator

- Allen Marine Sitka, Alaska 1998

Licenses

Marine fire fighting 1991-Present

Radar observer 1992-1998

USCG master any vessel 200 tons, master fishing vessels 500 tons, mate any vessel 1600 tons 1994-Present.

USCG mate uninspected vessels 500 tons 1978-94.

Boards

Alaska Board of Fish	1996- Present
Sitka Committee on Fisheries	1994- Present
United Fishermen of Alaska (NSRAA rep.)	1990- 1997
Vice President	1991
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association	1985- 1997
President	1988- 1997
Seafood Producers Co-op	1994-1996
Sitka Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs	1993- 1994
Seafood Producers Co-op	1981-1985
President	1985

Service on Vessels Requiring License

Aleut Packer	500 GT	1978-79
Kodiak Queen	500GT	1983
Woodbine	500GT	1994
Sea Otter	27GT	1998

RESUME
VIRGIL L. UMPHENOUR
2400 Davis road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-3885
FAX 456-3889
E mail akhunt@otialaska.net

OBJECTIVE

Appointment to the Alaska Board of Fish.

QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE

Have been involved in all aspects of the fishing industry: commercial, sport, subsistence.

Commercial

Fished commercially on the Tanana River in Fairbanks from 1984 until 1995 when I gave my permit to my son. In 1985 became a commercial fish processor, processing both fish and roe from my fish and buying from commercial fishermen in Fairbanks, Nenana, Norton Sound and villages along the Yukon River. Have expanded this business so that now my company operates year round doing smoked fish and value added salmon products per year. Upwards of 250,000 lbs of salmon and roe can be processed during the summer months pending availability of fish.

SPORT

Have been an avid sport fisherman all my life. I have sport fished from the Kenai Peninsula to the Seward Peninsula and am will aware of the importance of the sport fishing industry to both the Alaskan sport fisherman and the tourism industry. My company processes in excess of 40,000 lbs/yr of sport caught fish.

SUBSISTANCE/PERSONAL USE

Have subsistence or personal use fished in Nome, Copper River and Yukon River drainage since 1976. As a commercial fish processor and big game hunting guide, have dealt extensively with the commercial/subsistence fishermen of the Yukon River drainage and Norton Sound. For the most part, fishermen in these areas commercial fish to obtain cash to support their subsistence lifestyle. I have seen first hand the devastating effects of the failed fish runs on these people.

HUMAN RELATIONS

Past and present positions have required a wide range of interpersonal skills, public information management techniques and political awareness. As a commercial fisherman/processor and former military officer, have learned to deal with a wide range of individuals and be cognizant of their special interests and concerns. Am able to work with others to strike a consensus on critical issues. Was co-organizer of the Yukon River

together.

COMMUNICATION

Certified military instructor. Am completely at ease when speaking to large groups of people.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

CEO, Interior Alaska Fish Processors, Inc.
Registered Alaskan Hunting Guide
Officer, US Army Reserve, Retired

MEMBERSHIP

Member, Alaska Board Of Fish, August 1994 to present
Delegate, US Canada Yukon River Salmon Treaty Negotiating Committee since 1988
Co Chairman, Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association, Dec 1990 to July 1994
Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association, life member

REFERENCES

Jack Coghill, former Lt. Governor
State Senator Georgianna Lincoln
State Representative Richard Foster
Irene Nicholia, former State Representative
Allan Vezey, former State Representative
Charles Meecham, former Deputy Commissioner, ADF&G



Native Village of Port Lions

PORT LIONS TRADITIONAL TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 69
PORT LIONS, ALASKA 99550
PHONE: 907-454-2234 / FAX 907-454-2434

April 30, 1999

Governor Tony Knowles
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Re: Board Of Fish Nominations

Dear Governor Knowles:

The Port Lions Traditional Tribal Council supports your nominations of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller and Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fish. We had hoped that you would appoint someone from Kodiak Island to the Board. Nevertheless, we believe these candidates have focused on resource preservation and responsible fisheries management.

This past board cycle the Board of fish addressed two issues of importance to Port Lions. The hard on bottom trawl issue protected the waters adjacent to our village and the tanner crab management plan gave us some hope for future tanner crab seasons. It is important to note that Virgil Umphenour was the leader on the Board in drafting the Kodiak Area tanner crab management plan and that he sought out the advice of industry as well as folks from the rural communities as he worked with the Board to put this plan together. The tanner crab management plan is exactly what the village fisherman in Kodiak wanted. Regarding the limitation of haed on bottom trawling, we can only say that it's about time - finally the Board of Fish responded to our concerns. We still have a small "donut hole" in federal waters in the northern part of Marmot Bay that needs protecting.

While we support your current Board nominations. We again want to stress our desire for you to appoint someone from Kodiak as soon as possible.

Very Truly Yours,

Helen M. Harris, President
Port Lions Traditional Tribal Council

cc: Senator Jerry Mackie
Representative Alan Austerman
Senator Rick Halford, Senate Resource Chariman
Chairman John White, Board of Fish

Subject: Fish Board Appointments

Date: Mon, 26 Apr 1999 14:34:55 -0700

From: "cjudkins" <cjudkins@customcpu.com>

To: "Scott Ogan" <Representative_Scott_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Rick Halford" <Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

This note is to endorse the reappointment of Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller to the Fish Board. These folks have spent hundreds of hours dealing with fish management issues in the interests of various fish user groups. They have not pleased any of us all the time or even a majority of the time; however they have listened to all sides and gone to great lengths to incorporate all of our wants and needs within the biological constraints of our salmon stocks. This is a difficult task! I think the Board members should be complimented the positive work that they accomplished for the Cook Inlet fisheries; not chastised because they did not give the commercial fishermen all the fish in the inlet. If we do not put adequate numbers of salmon in the rivers we will continue to have less and less fish. I testified for the Boating Association on four issues before the Fish Board, I prevailed on one; still I feel that they made their decisions fairly without favor to any of us and with the biology of the fish as their major concern.

Thank you, Cliff Judkins, President
Alaska Boating Association



APR 2 1999
P.O. Box 1649

Cordova, Alaska 99574-1649

907-424-3115

Fax: 907-424-3116

E-mail: crspa@copperriver.com Web: <http://www.copperriver.com>

Senators and Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

April 17, 1999

Dear Senators and Representatives

The Copper River Salmon Producers represent the majority of commercial salmon harvesters in Prince William Sound and the Copper River Flats.

Please add our voices of strong opposition to the re-appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fish. Appointees to this board must be open and unbiased, have a commitment to proper process and a passion for the preservation and fair allocation of the states fisheries resources. They must balance history, tradition, economic dependence, statutory requirements, the needs of fishing families, cannery workers, and coastal communities when making regulatory decisions.

Our experiences with, and observations of Mr. Umphenour have shown that he brings none of these traits to his board seat.

With a value to the state of over \$1 billion, the Commercial Fishing Industry expects appointees to the board who understand the delicate balance between all user groups; subsistence, commercial and sport. We feel that the state would be better served by a different appointee. The Governor can do a better job in this appointment, and we respectfully request that you remind him of his responsibilities by not confirming Mr. Umphenour.

Respectfully,

Bill Webber
President

cc. Governor Tony Knowles

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MATANUSKA VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 1062, PALMER ALASKA 99645

Date: 26 April 1999

To: Senator Rick Halford
Chairman Senate Resources Committee
Juneau, Ak. FAX 465-4928

From: Carl A. Grauvogel and a majority of advisory committee members.

Subject: Reappointment of Dan Coffee and Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries

It is our understanding that Dan Coffee and Virgil Umphenour are coming before your resources committee in the near future for consideration of reappointment to the Board of Fisheries. I took a telephone poll our our entire advisory committee last night. On this short notice, I contacted 11 of our 15 members and all but one (who voted to abstain because of lack of personal knowledge) were strongly in favor of reappointment of these two individuals. Bruce Knowles, Andy Couch and I were in attendance at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Soldotna this past February for the entire two weeks. We participated in all aspects of the Board meeting (and several other past Board meetings) including the personal and up close "stake holder" subcommittee meetings. Therefore, we are very familiar with the qualifications and commitment of these two Board members. We found these two members to be fair and unbiased in their consideration of proposals, and most importantly both demonstrated a strong desire to protect the fishery resources first, even though this point of view was not always favorable with some of the various resource users, particularly some commercial resources users who often tended to argue on the side of what was best for their pocket book, rather than what was best for the long-term conservation of the fishery resource.

We strongly favor reappointment of Dan Coffee and Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries. It will be very difficult to find individuals who have similar qualifications, and the tremendous commitment of time needed to take their place.

April 22, 1999

Governor Knowles
 P O Box 110001
 Juneau, AK 99811

Regarding: Board of Fish

Dear Governor Knowles,

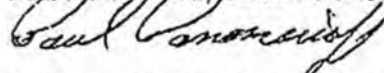
The Ouzinkie Round Table has recently learned of your reappointment of Dan Coffey, Virgil O and Grant Miller to the Board of Fish. Although we would like to see a representative from Kodiak on the Board, we believe that your choices have proven to be guardians for Alaska's resources. During the past year, fishermen from Ouzinkie have interacted with the Board on several issues. Our experience is that the Board has give us a fair hearing

Recently the Board of Fish voted to eliminate hard on bottom trawling in our backyard, Marmot Bay. This Board action illustrates the Board's commitment to resource conservation and a desire by the board to be proactive on several issues -- like the return of crab to the Gulf of Alaska. We support your board nominees and hope the Board of Fish will continue its current commitment to rebuilding depleted or depressed fishery stocks.

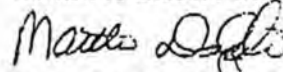
Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely yours,

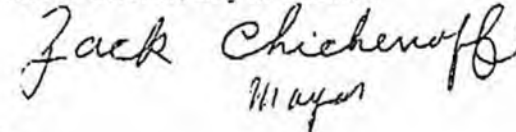
Paul Panamarioff, Ouzinkie Tribal Council



William Anderson, Ouzinkie Native Corporation



Debra Gardner, City of Ouzinkie



cc Senator Jerry Mackie
 Representative Alan Austerman
 Senator Rick Halford, Senate Resource Chairman
 Chairman John White, Board of Fish

Apr-27-99 04:25P Duncan & Leslie Fields 907-486-8836

P.02

April 27, 1999

Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor
P O Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Hard on Bottom Trawling

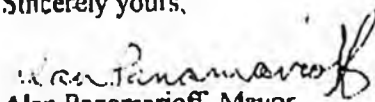
Dear Governor Knowles:

As you may be aware, the Board of Fish acted in March to reduce hard on bottom trawl fishing around Kodiak Island. While many of our concerns were addressed by the Board actions, the Board failed to completely close the State waters of most importance to our community — the west side of Shelikof Straits. We understand that the Board had a desire to protect smaller (and presumably local) trawlers but we continue to believe that the Board should have closed this area. In short, we believe that the rural communities of Larsen Bay and Karluk continue to be adversely effected by hard on bottom trawlers.

Despite being unhappy with the Board's trawl decision, we want to communicate our support for the Board process and our positive interaction with Board members. We found all of the current Board members accessible during the Board's meeting and open to the views of our community regarding the trawl issue. We were surprised by the knowledge about trawling demonstrated by Board members Larry Engle, Virgil Umphenour and Dan Coffey. It was clear that these Board members have good understanding of the resource related economies throughout rural Alaska. We are pleased that you have re-appointed Mr. Umphenour and Mr. Coffey to the Board for another term.

If you have any questions regarding the City of Larsen Bay's views on Board of Fish issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,


Alan Panamarioff, Mayor

cc Senator Jerry Mackie
Representative Alan Austerman
Senator Rick Halford, Senate Resource Chairman
Chairman John White, Board of Fish



Old Harbor Tribal Council

P.O. Box 62, Old Harbor, Alaska 99643
 Phone: (907) 286-2215 Fax: (907) 286-2277

April 27, 1999

Honorable Tony Knowles
 P.O. Box 110001
 Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Decisions by Board of Fish

Dear Governor Knowles,

The Old Harbor Tribal Council wishes to thank you and the Board of Fish for the closure of Sitkalidak Straits to hard on bottom trawling. This is an important marine rearing area adjacent to our community that should have been protected many years ago. Finally, during their March meeting, the Board of Fish resolved to limit the destruction caused by the hard on bottom trawls.

We wish to commend Chairman John White for his deliberative management of the trawl issue and especially want to recognize the efforts of the Board's ground fish committee, Larry Engle, Ed Durshan and Virgil Umphenour to understand the issue and to work with stakeholders toward compromise. Virgil Umphenour, in particular, took the time to visit with representatives from our community and to discuss their concerns.

I would also want to thank the Board of Fish for their cautious approach to tanner crab management in the Kodiak area. We believe the new Tanner Crab Management Plan will prove an effective tool for conservative use of tanner crab stocks. We remain concerned, however, about the status of red king crab in the Gulf of Alaska and encourage you and your staff to motivate ADF&G to develop a comprehensive red king crab recovery plan for the Gulf of Alaska.

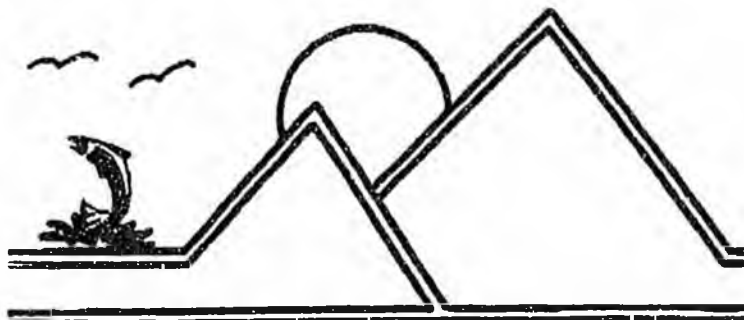
If you have any questions about our comments, please contact our office in Old Harbor.

Very truly yours,

Tony R. Azuyak Sr.
 Tony Azuyak, President

cc Senator Jerry Mackie
 Representative Alan Austerman
 Senator Rick Halford, Senate Resource Chairman
 Chairman John White, Board of Fish

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City of Port Lions

Administrative Offices

P.O. Box 110

Port Lions, AK 99550-0110

(907) 454-2332 (Fax) 454-2420

April 28, 1999

Governor Tony Knowles
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Proposal 132--Hard on Bottom Trawling

Dear Governor Knowles,

The City of Port Lions recently passed a resolution encouraging the Board of Fish to eliminate hard on bottom trawling in the waters of Marmot Bay adjacent to our community. We have tried for years to move the trawl fleet further offshore and only recently felt like the Board would consider our concerns. As you are aware, the Board of Fish closed most State waters in the Kodiak Management Area to trawling in March. We applaud this decision.

All Board of Fish members were actively engaged in the trawl issue. Nevertheless, we wanted to mention three Board members that showed particular interest in the concerns of rural communities. Virgil O, Grant Miller and Dan Coffey responded to our resolution by questioning our representatives further about Port Lions concerns. It was gratifying to see this demonstration of Board concern and realize that Board of Fish members were reading and considering our written materials. We believe that you have made a good decision to reappoint these three gentlemen to the Board of Fish.

If you have any additional questions regarding Port Lions views on the Board of Fish, please do not hesitate to contact me.

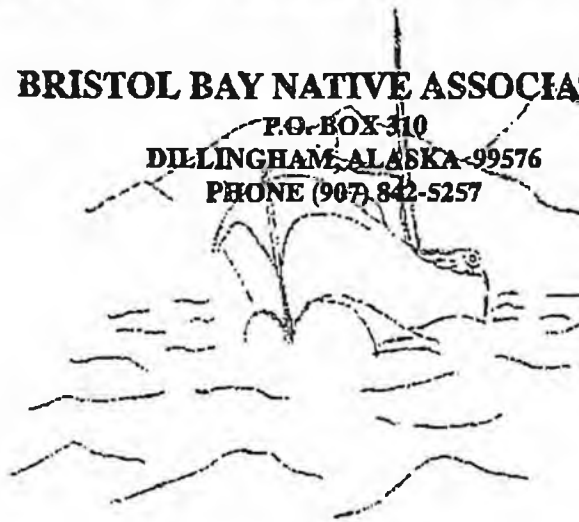
Sincerely yours,

Robert Wagner, Mayor

cc: Senator Jerry Mackie
Representative Alan Austerman
Senator Rick Halford, State Resource Chairman
Chairman John White, Board of Fish

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
 DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
 PHONE (907) 842-5257



Tribal Councils
 Served by BBNA:

April 29, 1999

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake Senator Rick Halford

Clarks Point State Capitol

Dillingham Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Egegik

Dear Senator Halford;

Ekwok

Ekwok

Igiugig

Iliamna

I understand Virgil Umphenour's reappointment to the Board of Fish is in trouble. For someone in the Interior, Virgil has always demonstrated exceptional understanding of maritime issues related to anadromous fish, nearshore and offshore fisheries, and our fishing communities.

Ivanof Bay

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganuk

The approaches this Board of Fish has taken to establish a "fresh" regulatory regime are a product of the dynamics among and between its members. Mr. Umphenour is a key element of that mix. While these new approaches cause some irritation among many members of the State's fish politicians, most, including yourself would agree I hope, that they are on a good course and should maintain.

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stayshek

Please work toward his confirmation.

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Sincerely,

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Terry Hoeffler
 Chief of Operations

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik



May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

RE: Reappointment of Virgil Umphenour
Facsimile Message: 465-4928

Dear Senator Halford,

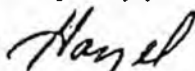
Becharof Corporation shareholders put high value in efforts protecting essential habitat for all marine resources within State waters. This means we do not appreciate the impacts from trawlers who drag on the bottom and destroy fisheries resources and the habitat that they depend on.

We wholeheartedly support the reappointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Alaska Board of Fisheries because he is not hesitant to address controversial issues in State waters. We like knowing where Board members stand on issues rather than constantly having to figure out where our resource managers are coming from.

Mr. Umphenour also takes the time to listen to the concerns of fishermen in regard to conservation of weak stocks.

His commitment has been steady and he does a good job for the state residents who rely on Board of Fisheries members to make sure we have a future in fisheries not just a short-term exploitation of our resources.

Very truly yours,


Hazel Nelson,
President



Lake and Peninsula Borough

P.O. Box 495
King Salmon, Alaska 99613

Telephone: (907) 246-3421
Fax: (907) 246-6602



April 30, 1999

Rick Halford
Chairman of Senate Resources Committee
Facsimile Message: 465-4928

RE: Alaska Board of Fisheries Reappointment

Dear Senator Halford,

The Lake & Peninsula Borough has a strong interest in maintaining the health of the fisheries resources adjacent to the fishing communities within Borough boundaries. The Assembly is active in working to minimize bycatch in commercial fisheries and protecting essential habitat for all marine resources within State waters.

We wholeheartedly support the reappointment of Virgil Umphenour because he is not hesitant to address these sensitive issues.

As you know there are different vessel types and sizes that harvest different species within state waters. These differences bring a sharp awareness to fishermen that target the same stocks, intercept stocks, or ruin habitat in areas that others rely on for other species. All this is said because different regions support different appointees to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

We support Virgil Umphenour because he has stood strong in the face of tough opposition on these tough issues. As Chairman of Senate Resources, we ask you to recognize his unwavering stance in telling the industry to clean up their act. Fishing can be conducted profitably and still reduce bycatch and stop ruining crab habitat.

He also encourages reducing intercept fisheries where possible. Resources within our state are for all of us to use. If fisheries were managed to allow maximum intercept in some areas, our state would lose in the long run because the impact would decimate discrete stocks.

Thank you for considering our recommendation. Virgil takes his appointment seriously and does a good job for the state.

Respectfully,

Walt Wrede,
Borough Manager

THE CHITINA DIPNETTERS ASSN.

1002 PIONEER ROAD
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford Chairman
Senate Resource Committee
and Committee members.

The Chitina Dipnetters Association strongly
support the reappointment of Virgil
Umphenour to the Alaska Board
of Fisheries.

Thank you
Byron W. Haley President
Chitina Dipnetters Association
1002 Pioneer Road.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-2818
Phone/Fax 456-4426



KAWERAK, INC.



PO. BOX 948 • NOME ALASKA 99762

TELEPHONE: (907) 443-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-3708

- SERVING THE VILLAGES OF
- BREVIG MISSION
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- SHAKTOOLIK
- SHISHMAROFF
- SILOMON
- STEBBINS
- ST MICHAEL
- TELLER
- UNALASKA
- WALIS
- WHITE MOUNTAIN

April 30, 1999

Senator Halford, Chair
 Senate Resources Committee
 Alaska State Legislature
 State Capitol (MS 3100)
 Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Members:

Per this correspondence, we are encouraging members of the Senate Resources Committee to recommend confirmation of Virgil Umphenour and Dan Coffey for re-appointment to the Alaska Board of Fish.

The Alaska Board of Fish held a meeting here in Nome the week of March 29, 1999. The leading issue on the agenda was whether or not the Nome Subdistrict should be declared a Tier II fishery for chum salmon. While there are some individuals in Nome who do not feel the Board should have made the decision they did - those of us familiar with the State subsistence statute recognize they made the only decision they could under the law. The fact that Nome residents historically took 2,500 chums annually and that department biologists estimated that only 2,000 chums would be available, legally mandated that the Nome Subdistrict had to be declared a Tier II fishery for chums.

I've attended Board of Fish meetings off and on for the past five or six years. Under the leadership of John White, the Board process has improved immeasurably. Virgil Umphenour contributes fully to the Board process with his knowledge of the fisheries in western and interior Alaska. Dan Coffey, with his legal background, has streamlined and expedited the Board decision making process. All three of these gentlemen are an asset to the Board of Fish and I encourage you to support their confirmation.

Sincerely,

KAWERAK, INCORPORATED

L. Bullard
 Loretta Bullard
 President

DATE: May 2, 1999

TO: Senate Resources Committee
Senators Halford, Taylor, Green, Pete Kelly, Mackie, Parnell,
and Lincoln

FROM: Bill Stockwell
P.O. Box 721
Cooper Landing, AK 99572-0721
Phone & Fax 595-1540

SUBJECT: May 3, 1999 Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing

Dear Chairman Halford and Senate Resources Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REAPPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF DAN COFFEY, GRANT MILLER AND VIRGIL UMPHENOUR TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES.

As a member of a local advisory committee and a member of the public, I have testified before these Board members and served in the committee process several times recently. While we may not always agree, I feel their positions on issues have been well thought out and in the best interests of Alaska's resources and people. At no time is it possible to satisfy ALL special interests, including mine.

While conserving habitat and resource, the members of the Board of Fisheries must recognize the needs of subsistence, personal use, sport fishing, commercial sport fishing, and commercial fishing. In a salmon fishery as complex as Cook Inlet, managing for the sustainability of these mixed weak and strong stocks while allocating for public uses, further complicates the issues. These three board members have worked hard to insure that all needs are met.

I ask you also to please disregard Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 99-034 strongly opposing the confirmation of the three current members. I am appalled and embarrassed that my local government, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, would blatantly advocate and lobby for a special segment of our local economy to the detriment of other viable and vital parts of our local business sector, let alone the damage this type of thinking does to the public's uses of our common resources.

Please support the confirmation of the reappointments of current BOF members Coffey, Miller and Umphenour.

Sincerely,



Bill Stockwell

Otto Florschutz
PO BX 547
Wrangeli AK, 99929

Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

I would like you to support Dan Coffey, Grant Miller and Virgil Umphenours confirmation to the Board of Fish. I have attended 2 different board meetings that these three sat on. Many very complex issues were discussed and I believe for the most part solved at these meetings. They have listened to the issues and testimonies and tried to act on that knowledge. I urge you to support the Governors appointments.

Thank you. Respectfully, Otto Florschutz

To: Senator Rick Halford, Chairman, Senate Resources Committee

From: *Robert P. Schell*
Robert D. Schell, Chairman, Board of Directors, Seafood Producers Co-op

Subject: Board of Fish Appointees

Date: May 2, 1999

Seafood Producers Cooperative endorses the reappointment of Grant Miller of Sitka to the board of fish. Our cooperative consists of 495 members who participate in hook and line fisheries, primarily the troll salmon fishery and the various long line fisheries of Alaska.

Grant is knowledgeable of these fisheries as well as the net and sport fisheries of Alaska. This knowledge combined with the demonstrated ability to listen to the various constituencies who use these resources makes him much too valuable a board member to be lost to the political vagrancy of the various factions involved in fishery allocations.

The board of fish is a tough assignment. I have participated in their meetings over the past decades and know only too well the animosities that can develop if decisions do not go the way some parties would prefer. The board of fish members should not be scapegoats for making the tough decisions.

Box 1367
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-8541



MAY 03 1999
UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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

May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford
Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford,

UFA appreciates all the hours and time present Board of Fisheries (BOF) members dedicate to a very demanding job. However, we also feel the BOF is out of balance and does not have the necessary combination of management skills, commercial fisheries experience, and concern for the State as a whole. At present there is only one BOF member with extensive commercial experience in the mixed stock fishery, Grant Miller.

Alaska's fisheries face substantial challenges. Markets are changing for both salmon and halibut. Competition between traditional commercial, subsistence, and recreational users is occurring due to expanding population in some areas and an increase in tourism. There is the potential for significant interaction between the state federal resource managers (NMFS/North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and subsistence managers). Recent actions by the Board of Fisheries, could trigger changing management of crab fisheries beyond the three mile limit back to the federal government. The BOF must be prepared to address these and other issues based on sound biology, and a well founded understanding of the socio-economic impacts of their decisions. Alaska has managed its fishery resources well in the past and should not put these resources at risk for short term political gain.

Commercial fisheries are the largest private sector employer in the State and the second largest source of income after oil. Commercial fisheries pays taxes in excess of the cost of state commercial fisheries management. Improper management of commercial fisheries results in both short and long term losses to the State treasury and employment base. In a sense Alaska's commercial fisheries are a "permanent fund"; does the State select a board without an adequate balance of financial, managerial, and technical skills to manage the Alaska Permanent Fund?

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 Seiners 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

We need to bring the board back in balance and to have another experienced commercial fisheries person on the board; we need a change. The experience on the board now favors terminal fisheries which is a small fraction of the fisheries in the state. We need someone with recent experience who can quickly grasp nuances of fisheries for different species (halibut, cod, rockfish, scallops, etc) and gear types (pots, nets, long line, div, etc).

Because of the social and economic significance of commercial fisheries, we feel it is only fair that there be at least one more experienced commercial fisheries member.

Board members need open minds and strong consensus building skills. UFA supports Grant Miller for reappointment and hopes the legislature understands the seafood industry's critical need to at have at least another board member that understands current biological and management practices.

We know these appointments are tough decisions and hope you understand the rationale of why change is needed. We do not feel this is too much to ask due to the current makeup of the Board. Virgil Umphenour has served on the Board since 1994, almost two terms. The governor's recent nomination would add another three years. Normally a seat changes after two terms.

Thanks for consideration of our comments and the impact you can have on Alaska's largest private sector employer.

Sincerely,


Rich Davis
President

Sunday, May 02, 1999

Senator Rick Halford, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford and Resource Committee Members,

Enclosed please find a letter I have written regarding Mr. Virgil Umpenhower's performance on the Board of Fisheries. Since writing this letter I have listened to Mr. Umpenhower's response to the substantial criticism of his BoF professionalism that has come from all over Alaska. I would like to say that this is not a personality contest. We are talking about a very powerful Board position. The commercial fishing industry, the largest employer in the State of Alaska, lives and dies by the decisions made at the BoF.

Mr. Umpenhower has repeatedly defended his bias and outbursts by claiming, "They just don't like me because I decide against them." I would categorically like to say that there are several BoF members I don't like, but they remain professional and attempt to listen to the very complex issues brought before them. This is absolutely not true of Mr. Umpenhower. His mind is always already made up.

I truly hope that Mr. Umpenhower will not be confirmed, and by that Governor Knowles will attempt to put some balance back on the BoF. As sweeping decisions are made in the groundfisheries in the State, there is not one Board member who has any blue water experience, or UNDERSTANDING, of the complexities of those fisheries. We, as such an important industry to the revenue of this State, deserve a BoF which can make critical decisions with all the information they need. The composition of the BoF must be balanced. Begin that by not confirming Virgil Umpenhower.

Sincerely,

Virginia C. Adams
Virginia C. Adams

Friday, April 23, 1999

Rep. Alan Austerman
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Rep. Austerman,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the confirmation of Virgil Umpenhower to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Since Mr. Umpenhower was appointment to the BoF I have attended all BoF meetings relating to my area, Kodiak. I have attended these BoF meetings as the President of Northwest Setnetters Association, as a Board member of United Fishermen of Alaska and as a member of the Kodiak Salmon Working Group. Most recently I attended the BoF meetings in Anchorage dealing with State shellfish/groundfish proposals as a BoF appointed member of the Kodiak Non-Pelagic Trawl Committee. I feel I have had a great deal of time and interaction with Mr. Umpenhower on which to base my opinions regarding his qualifications.

Mr. Umpenhower consistently shows an inability to keep an open mind when deciding complex issues, and in fact can be absolutely counted upon to bring his own strong opinions and preconceived ideas to important BoF deliberations and votes. I witnessed this recently in January at the BoF meetings in Kodiak. Mr. Umpenhower, making a point in the evening to several BoF attendees, took a bag of potato chips, dumped them on the floor, ground them with his foot and then commented; "That's what a King Crab looks like after a trawl runs over it!" This to me is not the kind of behavior I would expect out of a person holding such an important position as a BoF member does.

Mr. Umpenhower, has earned the reputation as a closed minded, opinionated Board member whose vote can be counted on any issue BEFORE the BoF even meets. Mr. Umpenhower is very forthright in his predisposition towards several commercial gear types such as non-pelagic trawl, as well as aquaculture associations in Alaska. This type of attitude is inexcusable in an individual who holds so much power in such an important industry to the State.

(2)

I feel the Legislature has an opportunity at this time to send the Governor a message that it is time to put some balance back on the Board of Fisheries. It is my sincere hope that Mr. Umpenhower will not be confirmed to the BoF and that his vacancy will give the Governor an opportunity to appoint an individual with commercial fish experience and knowledge. Alaska's fishing industry deserves a BoF that is unbiased, intelligent and knowledgeable of the intricacies involved in the crucial decisions they make, many coastal families lives depend on those qualities. Quite frankly, Mr. Umpenhower does not possess those qualities and his time on the BoF should end.

Sincerely,



Virginia C. Adams

Box 8905

Kodiak, AK. 99615

907-486-6834/486-8803-FAX

vadams@ptialaska.net

cc: Rep. Bill Hudson
Senator Jerry Mackie
Rep. Ethan Berkowitz
Senator Johnny Ellis



P.O. Box 846
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Ph (907) 424-7750 Fax (907) 424-7751
Anchorage Ph/Fax (907)-274-3176
E-Mail salmon@pssifish.com
jeff@pssifish.com

FAX: Page 1 of 1

TO: Senator Rick Halford — Chairmen Senate Resources Committee

May 3, 1999

Dear Senator Halford,

I am writing to express my displeasure with Board of Fisheries board member Virgil Umphenour. He has repeatedly acted inappropriately during Board of Fish meetings with outrageous and false accusations towards many state commercial fisheries. This behavior is slanderous and should not be present on the Board of Fish.

It has become obvious that Mr. Umphenour has little understanding how his sometimes bizarre behavior during Board of Fish meetings undermines the whole board process.

As a Anchorage resident who spends his commercial fishing dollars in Anchorage year round I urge you to remove Mr. Umphenour from his current board seat before he causes irreversible damage to the commercial and sport fisheries as a whole.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bailey
President
Prime Select Seafoods Inc.
Cordova / Anchorage

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

May 30, 1999

Senator Rick Halford, Chair
Senate Resources
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SENT BY FACSIMILE TO (907) 465-4928

Dear Members,

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) would like voice its opposition to the confirmation of Virgil Umphenour to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

CDFU is an organization comprised of Prince William Sound and Copper River fishing families dependent upon commercial fisheries. Board of Fisheries proceedings are by far the most critical issue currently facing the small independent fishing families who constitute Alaska's largest private sector employer and second largest income-producing industry. The Board of Fisheries' actions and decisions affect our daily lives, and have an enormous impact on our abilities to sustain both our resources and our livelihoods.

As we have discussed the many issues that surround the Board of Fisheries and its functions, one of the greatest concerns to emerge is the composition of the Board, an issue that you have the opportunity to address through your confirmation process.

We are strongly opposed to the re-appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board. We believe that Mr. Umphenour's demonstrated prejudices and unwillingness to critically examine the facts should preclude him from further service on the Board. The issues facing our industry are diverse. They demand the kind of knowledge, skills and abilities that come from a broader scope of experience than which currently exists on the Board. We believe that the appointment of someone other than Mr. Umphenour could provide for improved balance and performance.

At the confirmation hearings in House Resources on Wednesday, April 21, 1999, Mr. Umphenour exemplified the bias and inaccurate assumptions that so often accompany his participation in this process. Contrary to Mr. Umphenour's assertions that Copper River fishermen "don't like responsible fish management" while "they kill 97-100% of king salmon when present" by the way they are "seining the king salmon out," a simple

check of ADF&G data will quickly prove that subsistence, personal use and commercial fishermen have enjoyed historic high king salmon harvests on the Copper River in recent years. These certainly have not occurred because Copper River fishermen "like to be able to kill every last fish" and "catch all they can at the mouth of the river." It is irresponsible, insulting and untrue statements such as these that impair Mr. Umphenour's ability to serve in a functional and credible fashion on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

CDFU is certain that after thoughtful examination of the concerns detailed here you will come to the conclusion that the Board of Fisheries process would benefit from a change in membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Aspelund

Sue Aspelund
Executive Director

cc: UFA

Sylvia R. Lange
P.O. Box 135
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Mr. Rick Halford, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
fax #465-4928

April 30, 1999

Dear Mr. Halford,

I am a lifetime resident of Alaska. I was raised in Cordova by my parents, who like their parents before them, lived off the bounty of the area. I have been a subsistence and commercial fishermen dependent on the Copper River and Bering River for my entire life. My husband and I operate a fish processing facility which employs 100+ workers, and is wholly dependent on the PWS and Copper River and Bering River Districts. I write today because I am opposed to the appointment of Mr. Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries.

I have been involved as an advocate for my industry for the past 25 years. In all those years of interaction with the Board of Fisheries, I have come to respect the difficult job those individuals who serve on the Board face. The position often requires the problem solving of Solomon and the patience of Job. As a member of the general public, the most frustrating thing when coming forward to testify or participate in the Board of Fisheries process, is the obvious bias some members bring to the table. Conversely, it is a breath of fresh air when a member admits he is ill informed and brings to the hearings a willingness to learn, thereby making judgments based on the public process.

Mr. Umphenour has demonstrated repeatedly he comes to the table with a set agenda. Common decency dictates a certain demeanor of public officials in the course of their appointed business. While attending the BOF meetings in Cordova, Mr. Umphenour behaved rudely to the those of the public with differing opinions or facts which contradicted his prejudices. Other Board Members, at the conclusion of the meetings, congratulated the public participants on the congeniality and the hospitality of our community.

Mr. Umphenour has decided against all manner of facts, that the commercial salmon fishery of the Copper River Flats is run by individuals

4/30/99
Senate Resources Committee
P.2

who have no regard for the resource. This is simply not true, and the facts bear me out. The Copper River Flats has had a thriving commercial fishery and operating canneries on the Delta since 1898. Mr. Umphenour has accused the drift gillnetters of the Flats of "seining" king salmon in the shallows of the Copper River Delta inside the so-called "barrier islands". These barrier islands he keeps referring to are sand bars which in fact define the Copper River Flats from the Gulf of Alaska. Of course the fishermen oppose being shut out of this area--it is the traditional and customary fishing grounds of the fishery, and has been for over 100 years! As for "seining" with drift gillnets in an area that has 10 knot tide influences, it defies imagination and reveals an ignorance of the area and fishery.

It is true that our fleet has become very efficient in recent years. It is also true that the quantum leap in efficiency happened about ten years ago with the advent of light, fast, shallow vessels, and improved net materials. The local managers of the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game have been able to gauge and factor in this variable in the course of making their management decisions for many years now. As a result of their management of the resource, the Copper River Sockeye and King Salmon resource has remained strong and viable experiencing all time record runs in 1997, '98 and '99.

I applaud our managers at ADF&G for their diligence and hard work. We owe our economic survival to the health of the Copper River. It is in our best interest to protect the resource while maintaining a good working relationship with members of the Board of Fish. We understand we will not always agree on allocation issues, but we must retain a basic respect for the process and participants. Mr. Umphenour does not fit the bill.

Respectfully submitted,


Sylvia Lange

Toby Sullivan
P.O. Box 3047
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-1481
tobys@ptialaska.net

Senator Rick Halford
Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
fax 907-465-4928

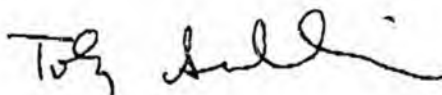
May 2, 1999

Dear Senator Halford:

I have fished commercially out of Kodiak and Dutch Harbor since 1974. Since that time I have watched Boards of Fish come and go. As you are no doubt aware, the current board is somewhat lacking in expertise in commercial fishing. In particular this board is, in my opinion, totally bereft of any semblance of awareness or experience in bottomfish or crab industry issues. These industries are important contributors to the economy of the state, and it is a disservice to the people of the state to have a Board of Fish that does not understand them. The time has come to redress this imbalance on the Board.

A start in this direction would be to remove Virgil Umphenour from the Board of Fish. He has shown a remarkable lack of open mindedness about marine issues in general, and a prejudicial ignorance of trawling and bottomfish issues in particular. I urge you not to approve his reappointment.

Yours sincerely





C.A.M.F.

Concerned Area M Fishermen

5126 Foster Avenue S.E., Auburn, WA 98092
(208) 833-5776 • Fax (206) 833-5776

May 2, 1999

Senate Resource Committee
Senator Rick Halford
State Capitol Rm. 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing

Dear Senator Halford and others,

Concerned Area M Fishermen is writing to oppose the confirmation of Virgil Umphenour to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Our membership consists of 120 Area M drift gillnet permit holders.


As commercial fishermen, we feel it is important, even critical, that the present Board of Fish composition be changed to address both its serious lack of commercial fishing expertise and the vast geographical regions of Alaska that are not represented on the present Board.

The existing Board is weighted heavily to Cook Inlet sport and Western interior Alaska with very little consideration given to the coastal salt water fisheries ("blue water fisheries") that range from Southeast to the Bering Sea. This systemic shortcoming has been compounded with what has appeared to us, many times, as egregious personal bias on the part of Virgil Umphenour.

From our perspective, Mr. Umphenour has brought a deliberate and preconceived agenda to all Area M meetings in an attempt to restrict our fishery. Mr. Umphenour repeatedly has ignored science and logic. Time and again, his intent seems more to have been to impair or destroy our fishery, than to improve his.

We hope that Mr. Umphenour's replacement will enhance the Board of Fisheries process in terms of competence, quality, and blue water fisheries experience.

Thank you


Brad Barr, President
Concerned Area M Fishermen

Introduced by: Scalzi, Brown, Drathman
Date: 04/20/99
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 7 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 99-034
(Popp) Substitute**

**A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE CONFIRMATION OF
CERTAIN MEMBERS TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly disagrees with certain stands taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the board of fish has circumvented local advisory boards and addressed Cook Inlet issues each and every year out of cycle; and

WHEREAS, the board of fish was instrumental in dismantling the Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries members did not use their own guidelines regarding local economies and historical users in their decision making process; and

WHEREAS, the board of fish dramatically changed the escapement goals for sockeye, utilizing a sliding scale approach which may cause great damage to the Kenai River Habitat area; and

WHEREAS, the regulations and decisions made by the board of fish have resulted in lost opportunity and income to Cook Inlet commercial fishing families and associated local support industries; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Cook Inlet commercial fishing families and businesses to deny confirmation of all current members reappointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

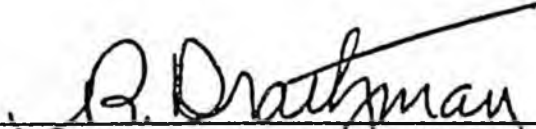
SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports the wishes of the Cook Inlet commercial fishing families and businesses and strongly opposes the confirmation of the three current members reappointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, who are Dan K. Coffey, Virgil L. Umphenour and Grant Miller.

SECTION 2. The Kenai Peninsula Borough takes the position that two commercial fishermen should be appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries who have knowledge in large fisheries such as Cook Inlet, and that one of the appointees be a Cook Inlet commercial fisherman.

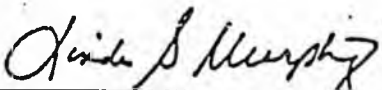
SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Knowles, the Alaska Legislature, Alaska Board of Fisheries, Commissioner of Fish and Game, and Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

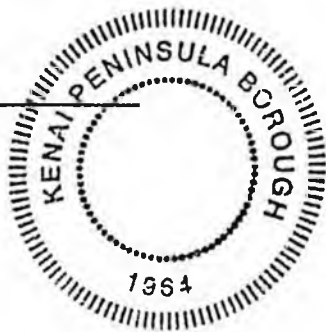
SECTION 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 20TH DAY OF APRIL 1999.


Ronald Wm. Drathman, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk



Dean Curran
P.O. Box 42
Cordova, AK 99574

May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Capitol Building
MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Members,

I am a commercial fisherman and resident since 1951.

I oppose the appointment of Virgil C. Umphenour to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As a commercial gillnetter on the Copper River Delta since 1970, and planning to gillnet another 20 to 30 years if my health holds up, I find Virgil Umphenour's comments against us as gillnetters very disturbing. If he thinks we can catch every king salmon on the Delta with 5 1/4" mesh he has no comprehension how a gillnet works or he is quite biased against the Copper River gillnetters.

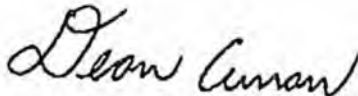
Has Virgil Umphenour even checked into the history of this fishery? We have given up our king nets where we had a mesh size of anything over 8" mesh, we could use 40 meshes. Anything less than 8" was 60 meshes. We have a leadline weight restriction of 150 lbs. over 100 fathoms. We went from a book-regulated time of a 48-hour period and 36-hour period per week to whatever the Alaska Department of Fish & Game wants regulated per week.

I was also at the Board meeting held in Cordova, when Virgil Umphenour had a conservation buffer put in place where it closed the complete middle of the Copper River Delta the first period. This was not needed as the Copper River was already getting more than a sufficient escapement due to the good management by the ADF&G.

It comes to my mind that Virgil Umphenour processes chum salmon for the roe and gets his fish from the Yukon. He doesn't like Prince William Sound hatcheries because they produce chum salmon. The timing for the return of these chum salmon is before the run gets to the Yukon so the PWS chum salmon is brought to market before the Yukon chum salmon. It seems to me that Mr. Umphenour has a conflict of interest.

Thank you for letting me provide you with my input.

Sincerely,



Dean Curran



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
BOARD OF FISHERIES committee name
committee on CONFIRMATION . dated MAY 3 1999
bill/subject

Dear Chairman Halford and Senate Resources Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REAPPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF DAN COFFEY, GRANT MILLER AND VIRGIL UMPHENOUR TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES.

As a member of a local advisory committee and a member of the public, I have testified before these Board members and served in the committee process several times recently. While we may not always agree, I feel their positions on issues have been well thought out and in the best interests of Alaska's resources and people. At no time is it possible to satisfy ALL special interests, including mine.

While conserving habitat and resource, the members of the Board of Fisheries must recognize the needs of subsistence, personal use, sport fishing, commercial sport fishing, and commercial fishing. In a salmon fishery as complex as Cook Inlet, managing for the sustainability of these mixed weak and strong stocks while allocating for public uses, further complicates the issues. These three board members have worked hard to insure that all needs are met.

I ask you also to please disregard Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 99-034 strongly opposing the confirmation of the three current members. I am appalled and embarrassed that my local government, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, would blatantly advocate and lobby for a special segment of our local economy to the detriment of other viable and vital parts of our local business sector, let alone the damage this type of thinking does to the public's uses of our common resources.

Please support the confirmation of the reappointments of current BOF members Coffey, Miller and Umphenour.

Signed: W. E. Stockwell

Testifier

BILL STOCKWELL

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721, CAMPER LANDINGS AK 99572

Address

(907) 595-1540

Phone No.

285 3078

Regarding Senate Resources
confirmation of Colley, Miller and Umphreovr,
I strongly disapprove of these three; first
because of their unbalanced, sports fish bias and
second because of their support of intentionally
over-escaping the Kenai River system with
red salmon i.e. "optimal sustained yield" instead
of max sustained yield.

Thor Enevson
1300 W 7th 208
Anchorage AK 99501
274-8705



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SRES
 committee name
 committee on Board of Fisheries, dated 5/3/99
 bill #/1 subject

To the Senate Resources Committee for testimony on the Board of Fisheries
 Confirmation hearing, 5/3/99.

The present Board of Fisheries have done a fine job of protecting the Alaskan Fishing Resource. I strongly support the confirmation of Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller. If the commercial fishing industry had its way, there would be no fish in four years or less. Please reappoint these members. Thank you.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

MR	GEORGE	R	SITEL, JR	
14865 STERLING HWY.				
COOPER LAUNDING, AK				99572
5951266		George L. Sittel, Jr.		5/2/99

Signed: _____
 Testifier

 Representing (Optional)

 Address

 Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources
committee name

committee on Confirmation hearings on Coffey, Miller & Umphenour, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

I request that you support Confirmation of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller and Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries. I have a long history of participation in Fisheries issues especially in the Cook Inlet region. At the recent Board Hearing in Soldotna the Board made a long needed decision to support sustained yield management for all Cook Inlet salmon stocks. This was necessary because there are several Northern District Stock which are approaching near endangered species status, due to massive interception by Central District fishermen. Even though this Board action was absolutely necessary, there was a outcry by the commercial fish industry on the Kenai Peninsula; and a political driven Resolution by the Assembly. I have included a copy of my response, which I intend to present at a public Assembly meeting at the first opportunity. I have enclosed this reply to what I see as the highly orchestrated political based opposition mounted against these three members as well as threats of legal action against the whole Board.

Please vote in favor of confirmation of Board members Dan Coffey, Grant Miller, and Virgil Umphenour Thank You

Signed: Rala Bandurant

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

31864 Moonshine Drive Soldotna 99669

Address

262-0818

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
committee name
committee on BO OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

Please read into record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee on the confirmation of Mr. Dan Coffey, Mr. Virgil Upenhouer and Mr. Grant Miller.

BoF Confirmation Hearings 1999.

This letter is in strong support of the present Board of Fish and the reappointment of Mr. Dan Coffey, Mr. Virgil Umphenour and Mr. Grant Miller to another term on this board.

This Board is innovative and places the resource first as their sustainable fish study indicates. In addition, they have initiated the committee process that requires stakeholder to sit down together to discuss issues. This avoids much posturing and positioning and helps reach consensus on at least some issues. The Local Advisory Board is a sham as local commercial lead the election meeting and elect only people that support their cause. Even so, this BoF has weighed all testimony and given all user groups fair and equal consideration.

Please don't let us return to the days of a BoF made up of only commercial fishing interests. Mr. Coffey, Mr. Umpherour and Mr. Miller are fair-minded and not afraid to make decisions and changes.

Ron Rainey, Chairman
Cook Inlet Public Fisheries Council
Signed:

Testifier

Ron Rainey
Cook Inlet Public Fisheries Council

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 549 Seldovia, AK 99609

Address

(907) 283-4333
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee

On BOF Confirmations, dated 5/3/99.

Please read into the record of testimony to the Senate Resources Committee on the confirmation of Mr. Dan Coffey, Mr. Virgil Umphenour and Mr. Grant Miller, BOF Confirmation Hearings, 1999.

I would like to speak in strong support of the present Board of Fish and the reappointment of Mr. Coffey, Mr. Umphenour and Mr. Miller to another term on this Board. This BOF has proven that they are up to the task of making tough, forward looking and conservation minded fishery policy. The sustainable fisheries study they have initiated will go a long way toward insuring the health of our vast mixed stock salmon fisheries and all other species. The committee process used by the BOF has improved and streamlined the process greatly by stopping short much of the posturing and insuring that stakeholders sit down together and discuss issues. This process has short stopped the Local Area Advisory Committee's ability to "pack the house" with commercial fishing interests. As a member of the Kenai/Soldotna Committee, I can assure you it is all one way (commercial fishing).

This BOF is the most hardworking, knowledgeable, open to all viewpoints, of any I have ever seen. It is imperative that we continue to march forward with this more conservative minded BOF if we expect to continue to have healthy fisheries of all user groups. Please don't let us return to the old days of a BOF made up of only commercial fishing interests.

Mr. Coffey, Mr. Umphenour, and Mr. Miller are all fair minded and willing to work hard to insure that fishery decisions are made with conservation concerns put first and fair and equitable changes are made.

Signed: Stephen S. Riddle Stephen S. Riddle

Testifier

Board of Directors K.R.P.G.A.

Representing (Optional)

1535 Angler Drive, Kenai, AK 99611

Address

Phone: (907) 283-5853 FAX: (907) 283-5813

Phone Number

FROM : Riddles Guided Fishing & Lodge PHONE NO. : 9072835853+51

May. 02 1999 06:12PM P2



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee

On BOF Confirmations, dated 5/3/99.

Please read into the record of testimony to the Senate Resources Committee on the confirmation of Mr. Dan Coffey, Mr. Virgil Umphenour and Mr. Grant Miller, BOF Confirmation Hearings, 1999.

The State of Alaska needs to keep the current Board of Fish members.
This BOF is the most hardworking, knowledgeable, open to all viewpoints, of any I have ever seen. It is imperative that we continue to march forward with this more conservative minded BOF if we expect to continue to have healthy fisheries of all user groups.

Mr. Coffey, Mr. Umphenour, and Mr. Miller are all fair minded and the caliber of people we need on this emotional issue of fish allocation.

Signed: Donna L. Riddle Donna L. Riddle
Testifier

Sports + Personal Use Fisher
Representing (Optional)

1535 Angler Drive, Kenai AK 99611
Address

Phone: (907) 283-5853 FAX: (907) 283-5813
Phone Number

5/2/1999

Dear Legislator:

The Kenai River Professional Guide Association is a organization that represents the Kenai River fishing guides. There were 347 licensed issued in 1998 of which 85% were Alaskan residents. Our organization has a 92% Alaskan resident component. We represent approximately 50% of those licensed.

KRPGA has taken a serious and committed interest in the Board of Fish public process. This past year we had designated members in attendance at the hearings held in Homer, Wasilla, Kodiak and Soldotna. They participated extensively in the public process; offering testimony as well as participating in various committees. It is our feeling that the Board when out of it's way to insure that the public was heard. However, in the end decisions had to be made and cvcryone could not be a winner on each issue. From a guide perspective we will have 2 more serious restrictions imposed upon us in the year 2,000. The first will not allow us to take clients fishing on Mondays in May and June; this is a 14.3% reduction in our work week). The second will reduce the number of paid clients we can have in our boat from 5 to 4: this is a 20% reduction.

We strongly challenge you to look beyond the irresponsible emotional rhetoric that has been spewed forth by certain special interest groups in an attempt to discredit and thus prevent the confirmation of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller and Virgil Umphenour. We urge you to confirm the reappointment of the 3 above named individuals. They and their fellow boat members have met the challenge of determining when and how to provide opportunity to an every increasing number of Alaskans and Americans to utilize

our common resources while making sure that the habitat and resource is protected.

If I can be of any further assistance to you or the confirmation process please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Connors
President, KRPGA
Phone-(907) 262-9496
Fax-(907) 260-9014
jconnors@corecom.net

P.O. Box 1085
Sterling, AK 99672

Introduced by: Scalzi, Brown, Drathman
Date: 04/20/99
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 7 Ycs, 1 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 99-034
(Popp Substitute)**

**A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE CONFIRMATION OF
CERTAIN MEMBERS TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

- WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly disagrees with certain stands taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and
- WHEREAS, the board of fish has circumvented local advisory boards and addressed Cook Inlet issues each and every year out of cycle; and
- WHEREAS, the board of fish was instrumental in dismantling the Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan; and
- WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries members did not use their own guidelines regarding local economies and historical users in their decision making process; and
- WHEREAS, the board of fish dramatically changed the escapement goals for sockeye, utilizing a sliding scale approach which may cause great damage to the Kenai River Habitat area; and
- WHEREAS, the regulations and decisions made by the board of fish have resulted in lost opportunity and income to Cook Inlet commercial fishing families and associated local support industries; and
- WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Cook Inlet commercial fishing families and businesses to deny confirmation of all current members reappointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI
PENINSULA BOROUGH:**


SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports the wishes of the Cook Inlet commercial fishing families and businesses and strongly opposes the confirmation of the three current members reappointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, who are Dan K. Coffey, Virgil L. Umphenour and Grant Miller.

SECTION 2. The Kenai Peninsula Borough takes the position that two commercial fishermen should be appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries who have knowledge in large fisheries such as Cook Inlet, and that one of the appointees be a Cook Inlet commercial fisherman.


SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Knowles, the Alaska Legislature, Alaska Board of Fisheries, Commissioner of Fish and Game, and Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 20TH DAY OF APRIL 1999.


Ronald Wm. Drathman, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee
committee name

committee on Confirmation to Board of Fish: Coffey, dated 5/3/99
bill # / subject Miller & Umphenour

Written Message Attached - 2 pages

Signed: Joseph F. Connors
Testifier
Kenai River Professional Guide Association, President
Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 1085, Sterling, AK 99672
Address
(907) 262-9496
Phone Number

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

Subject: Resolution 99.034

There is the growing isolationist attitude on the Kenai Peninsula, promoted by a recognizable demeanor of intended intimidation. As such it harms the constitutional mandated equality among intra state residents and the interstate citizenry as a whole.

I consider the hasty enacted Borough

Assembly's Resolution 99-034, of an intimidating demeanor and a shame full act to promote the claim of narrow-minded residency superiority, which is totally unacceptable in a free society.

Such demeanor may be temporary salve to those with narrow-minded goals; but it not only

fosters injury to all others but eventually destroys the perpetrators.

It is an absolute necessity to recognize

that the common property fisheries requires

the essential responsibility under the

Public Trust Doctrine, to assure that

those sustainable resources belong to no

individual or exclusionary groups but

on any claim of a history as USERS

The constitution mandates the responsibility of common use and sustained yield management requires an absolute commitment to equal consideration; with "No Exclusive Right or Special Privilege of Fisheries" for the present and the future USERS.

The threat of lawsuits is familiar rhetoric in the politics of Cook Inlet commercial fisheries. In the past when the Kenai River escapement goal was only 150,000 sockeye and by mistake in the count, allowed 200,000; the Central District commercial fisherman filed a ^{state} claim for \$1,000,000 because of the waste of fish.

As one of the authors of the Cook Inlet Comprehensive Salmon Management Plan; I well remember the violent opposition to the Board's adoption. First I need to point out the circumstances that convinced the Board the necessity of such a plan. The reaction to the ^{\$100} August 15th closure of commercial fishing, was for approximately 300 to obtain subsistence permits and return to fishing. When the list of the 300 names were submitted, the Board adopted the Plan. The commercial fishermen angrily lamented that they had lost everything. Does this sound familiar?

Due to consistent pressure, from the non-commercial public, for increased escapement goals; the commercial harvest gained from a prior average of one million to three million annually. In fact the 1987 and 1992 combined commercial harvest of over 18 million was greater than the total for 16 years prior to the Plan.

The growing charge is still that of wasted fish due to "over escapement", which lacks support in other Alaska fisheries. It is not recognized as a logical hypothesis by the American Fishery Institution; but instead they support the need of extra rotten carcass, beyond the number of spawners, to replenish the food chain of the whole eco-system.

The guntlet design of Cook Inlet commercial fisheries and the management priority for maximum harvest of the stronger Kenai and Kaslof River sockeye runs, results in massive interception of Upper Northern District stocks. This interception has resulted in a decline of near endangered species status for many discrete stocks.

It was the present Board of Fisheries' decision to adopt strategies insuring responsible sustained yield goals for all Cook Inlet mixed stocks fisheries. This in turn

has again raised the anger of the Central District, Kenai Peninsula commercial fishery to lament that they have lost everything. They threaten legal action, demand narrow-minded representation and "special privileges" based on local residency and history of use. They now love the Plan.

The Assembly's Resolution in opposition to the reappointment of the three Board members indicates an irresponsible political bias against true-constitutional mandated sustained yield management of all Cook Inlet stocks.

The Assembly's position that two commercial fisherman should be appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries who have knowledge in large fisheries such as Cook Inlet, and that one of the appointees be a Cook Inlet commercial fisherman; has implied a right of prescribed self interest representation. Such narrow political prescribed constraints flout true democracy. It also emphasizes the need to be careful for what you wish for because that may be what is received.

I propound that if one new member is from Kodiak-False Pass sector and one from Upper Northern District, Cook Inlet set matter; the resulting Central District, Kenai Peninsula

rhetoric will reach a new level of threats.

A small personal sampling of other "families and businesses" incurred some highly indignant response, against the Assembly's political position, as voiced in Resolution 99-034.

I see it as additional fuel to growing public concern with the constant selfish demands of exclusive right or special privileges of a superior class based on local residency.

I believe the continuation of such shameful actions^{as} condoned by the Assembly will in the end damage the integrity of our neighborhood.

Thank you

Dale Bondurant

31864 Moonshine Drive

Soldotna AK 99669

Nome Fishermen's Association

Box 747

Nome, Alaska 99762

(907) 443-5352 Voice (815) 364-2565 eFax

Senator Rick Halford
Alaska Senate
(907) 465-4928

May 3, 1999

Dear Senator Halford:

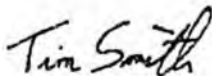
The Nome Fishermen's Association opposes the reappointment of Virgil Umphenour, Dan Coffey and Grant Miller to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

We believe the State of Alaska needs a fisheries board that listens to the public, bases its decisions on sound biological principles and allocates fisheries resources fairly among the users.

This spring, these three board members showed callous disregard for the public when they ignored the recommendations of the Nome Subsistence Salmon Working Group they had created and imposed Tier II salmon regulations on the Nome area. The working group represented a broad spectrum of community fisheries users who had spent more than year working on the issues of managing subsistence salmon fishing in the Nome area. The Nome Fishermen's Association was a member of that group. The board did not care what our community wanted and imposed regulations we believe are both oppressive and unnecessary.

This is only the most recent example of the current board's high-handed and arbitrary approach to fisheries management in our area and we urge you to not reappoint these three members.

Sincerely,



Tim Smith, President

May 3, 1999

State of Alaska
Senate Resources Committee
Senator Rick Halford, Chair

Re: Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

After submitting a letter to the House Resource, and Fisheries Committee last week, I feel it is of the utmost importance to object to the confirmation of Virgil Umphenhour for another term on the board. Apparently, my letter of truth, set him off and showed his true colors. My letter was as follows:

"I would like to oppose the confirmation of Virgil Umphenhour to the Board of Fisheries. His temper tantrum raised at the 1996 board cycle meeting in Cordova, showed him to be both biased and uninformed. His cussing and false statements in front of the public, put the board into Executive Session. Other members had to calm him down. He clearly has a conflict of interest towards his handling of matters concerning the Prince William Sound Aquiculture Corporation, (PWSAC) and/or matters relating to the Copper river fishery.

During his tantrum he stated that we (Cordova fishermen) were allowed to "seine up" all the fish at the mouth of the river. Purse seining has never been allowed near the Copper river. Also, the "mouth" of the Copper river is about a 60 mile wide delta, with many entrances. Mr. Umphenhour's interest in a processing operation in Fairbanks provides him with biases and personal interests when it comes to dealing with certain areas of the state. Because of his lack of judgement, the state should consider looking elsewhere. I am a resident of District 27, and rely solely on commercial fishing for my livelihood."

Mr. Umphenhour, denied this event occurring in 1996, and further explained his bias to the Committee. I now have record that the board did indeed go into Executive Session. He went on to refer to we Copper River gillnetters as a bunch of people who don't care about the resource. I've fished the Copper river for 31 years, and I am also an original permit holder. My father fished there for 40 years, and taught me the trade with my own boat when I was 11 years old. I've personally witnessed the fine management of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Committee members, I ask you to think about this: Who would care more about the fishery and its well being, than one who depends on feeding a family, a commercial fisherman. We

commercial fishermen have escapement levels to achieve before we go fishing, its always been under strict guidelines and that is just as it should be. The Copper river commercial fishery is over 100 years old and only recently have the upriver reaches become accessible to many users. I don't think its proper to have a biased and unknowledgeable person, making decisions on how the resource should be protected. Mr. Umphenhour is purely allocative and while trying to sound scientific, he forgets, this arena is to be left to properly trained biologists. This man makes accusations towards my user group and makes false claims about genetic diversity on king salmon stocks. I would like to see his credentials to make such statements. These statements have been made to the board as well as the public, damaging our credibility and reputation.

Members of the Committee, please stop and think about the of lack of fairness we are facing while trying to protect our livelihood and our resource. Also please remember, no one cares more about the health of the fishery, than one who stakes their very life on it, the commercial fisherman. **It is wrong for political appointees to think of themselves as biologists. Mr. Umphenhour must be removed from this position, he is very inappropriate.** I am enclosing a transcript of Mr. Umphenhour's comments to House Resources after they read my letter to him.

Thank you for the chance to comment,

Bob Martinson
900 Iroquois Drive
Wasilla, AK 9965

Enclosure

Virgil Umphenour's response to Ramona Barnes' questioning re: Bob Martinson's letter to the House Resources Committee's Alaska Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing on Wednesday, April 21, 1999 .

On FWSAC:

"People in FWSAC don't like me and there is a good reason for it. FWSAC owes the State of Alaska 28 million dollars currently. The Department of Investment has extended their loan with no interest. Their not paying any interest on it. FWSAC, I don't feel, has operated in a responsible manner to production of chum and pink salmon. As high as 97% of the harvest in 1996 of chum salmon harvested in Prince William Sound was hatchery-produced. I feel it is irresponsible to mass produce salmon from hatcheries to the detriment of the wild stocks. The Board is mandated by the Constitution of the State and the Legislature to manage salmon resources in such a manner that the wild stocks take priority over enhanced or hatchery-produced stocks. That's why the people from FWSAC do not care for me because I think they have been producing too many chum salmon and pink salmon, and they have put the wild stocks in Prince William Sound at risk because of that."

On the Cordova 1996 BOF meeting and the Copper River:

"To the best of my memory the Board did not enter into Executive Session in the meeting of December 1996 which was conducted in Cordova. So I don't know what they are talking about as far as the Board going into Executive Session. I do know that some of the driftnet fishermen fish inside the barrier islands of the Copper River and the water is 10 feet deep and using drift gillnets that are 29 feet deep. And using them in a manner, in the manner that you would use a beach seine. And they are seining the king salmon out. They're causing a problem with genetic diversity of the king salmon stocks in the Copper River: because they kill between 90-100% of king salmon when they're present, knowing when king salmon are getting accustomed to the change from saltwater to freshwater. They spend 7 days to 2 weeks milling in out of the mouth of Copper River. I don't think that is a responsible way to fish, and because I was one of the people that caused that fishery to be restricted a little bit to allow king salmon up the river unmolested, some of the commercial fishermen involved in that practice naturally do not like me and consider me a ? because they don't like responsible fish management. They like to be able to kill every last fish and they don't care if the sport fishery and personal use fishermen and subsistence fishermen get restricted upriver as long as they can catch all they can at the mouth of the river first."

Bruce J. Gabrys
10229 Baffin Street
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-3874

May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford
Chairman, Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Sent By: FAX (907) 465-4928

Re: Objection to Board of Fisheries Incumbent Appointments

Dear Senator Halford,

I ask your support in rejecting the confirmation of Dan K. Coffey, Grant J. Miller and Virgil L. Umphenour to the public seats on the Board of Fisheries. The current Board of Fisheries is not a balanced, well-rounded board. Reappointment of the incumbents does nothing to address this imbalance.

As a minimum, one of the three appointments should have current and direct experience as a commercial harvester. I am such a candidate and did request the Governor appoint me to the Board of Fisheries. Attached is a copy of my request and the Governor's response.

I will be at the Anchorage LIO for the 3:00 p.m. hearing today and would like to speak on behalf of balancing the board. I can be contacted at the address listed above, by telephone at (907) 694-3874, by fax at (907) 694-3832, or by e-mail at: gabrys@alaska.net.

Sincerely,


Bruce J. Gabrys



TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR
governor@gov.state.ak.us

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
Fax (907) 465-3532
www.gov.state.ak.us

April 26, 1999

Mr. Bruce J. Gabrys
10229 Baffin Street
Eagle River, AK 99577

Dear Mr. Gabrys:

The appointment in which you have expressed an interest has been made. The deadline for making these appointments was March 31, 1999, the day we received your application. Each candidate had impressive professional and personal qualifications.

Governor Tony Knowles has reappointed Dan K. Coffey of Anchorage, Grant J. Miller of Sitka, and Virgil L. Umphenour of Fairbanks to public seats on the Board of Fisheries.

We appreciate your willingness to assist Governor Knowles by applying for service on the board. If there are other boards or commissions that you would like to be considered for, please notify my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Smith".

Cindy Smith
Coordinator
Boards and Commissions

Bruce J. Gabrys
10229 Baffin Street
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-3874

March 30, 1999

Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Sent By: FAX (907) 465-3532
and USPS

Re: Request for Appointment to the Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Knowles,

I am requesting appointment to the Board of Fisheries. Adding my name to the list of applicants provides an option for you to balance the composition of the Board. I am a twenty year resident of Alaska, a small business owner in Eagle River, a sport fisherman, and a commercial fisherman with fifteen years of experience fishing Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet waters. I am confident that I have the broad range of experience and integrity required for serving on this very important board.

My background includes over twenty years of public service, fifteen of which has been in the Alaska National Guard. As a reference of my integrity, dedication and character; I offer one of your former commissioners, Jake Lestenkof. I had the privilege to work for Major General Lestenkof for the four years prior to his retirement.

I can be contacted at the address listed above, by telephone at (907) 694-3874, by fax at (907) 694-3832, or by e-mail at: gabryst@alaska.net. I am looking forward to serving on the Board of Fisheries. I am certain you will be pleased with my performance as your appointee.

Sincerely,



Bruce J. Gabrys

Commercial Fishing

Property Management

GABRYS & COMPANY
P.O. Box 771751
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Bruce J. Gabrys

10229 Baffin St.
Eagle River, AK 99577

(907) 694-3874
~~FAX (907) 694-3874~~
E-Mail: gabryst@alaska.net
FAX (907) 694-3832



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
 committee on BOARD OF FISHERIES committee name
CONFIRMATION , dated MAY 3 1999
 bill/subject

Dear Chairman Halford and Senate Resources Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REAPPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF DAN COFFEY, GRANT MILLER AND VIRGIL UMPHENOUR TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES.

As a member of a local advisory committee and a member of the public, I have testified before these Board members and served in the committee process several times recently. While we may not always agree, I feel their positions on issues have been well thought out and in the best interests of Alaska's resources and people. At no time is it possible to satisfy ALL special interests, including mine.

While conserving habitat and resource, the members of the Board of Fisheries must recognize the needs of subsistence, personal use, sport fishing, commercial sport fishing, and commercial fishing. In a salmon fishery as complex as Cook Inlet, managing for the sustainability of these mixed weak and strong stocks while allocating for public uses, further complicates the issues. These three board members have worked hard to insure that all needs are met.

I ask you also to please disregard Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 99-034 strongly opposing the confirmation of the three current members. I am appalled and embarrassed that my local government, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, would blatantly advocate and lobby for a special segment of our local economy to the detriment of other viable and vital parts of our local business sector, let alone the damage this type of thinking does to the public's uses of our common resources.

Please support the confirmation of the reappointments of current BOF members Coffey, Miller and Umphenour.

Signed: W.S. Stockwell

Testifier

BILL STOCKWELL

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721, CAMPER LANDING AK 99572

Address

(907) 595-1540

Phone No.

Subject: Board of Fisheries Confirmations

Date: Mon, 03 May 1999 11:05:41 -0800

From: susan cutler <scutler@sinbad.net>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford,

I just learned that you **Resources Committee** will be discussing the **reappointment of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller, and Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries** this afternoon. Please provide this note to the members of the committee.

As President of the **Alaska Sportfishing Association**, I would like to make the members of the committee aware that we endorse the reappointment of these three fine gentlemen. Although we didn't always agree with the way they voted, we are comfortable that overall they placed the health of the fish first, considered subsistence/personal use harvesting a priority, and then allocated the harvestable surplus to the competing user groups using the allocation criteria that is the statutes. Their initiation and use of the new committee process which enhances public involvement in the Board decision making scheme.

The Alaska Sportfishing Association recommends that the committee send the appointments to the floor with a recommendation to approve.

thank you

Phil Cutler, President
Alaska Sportfishing Association

Subject: BOF Conf. Hearings

Date: Mon, 26 Apr 1999 19:36:40 -0700

From: Mark Buchner & Suzy Williamson <turney@alaska.net>

Organization: King Charters

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

**CC: Senator_Georgianna_Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us;,
Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Halford;

I am in opposition of

the appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board Of Fish. He has no knowledge of, or respect for the public process established at statehood for regulating Alaska's fisheries resources. He is also a biased decisionmaker who has demonstrated that he is not willing or able to factfind to make the best and most informed decision possible. For these reasons I oppose the re-appointment of V. Umphenour.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Mark Buchner
King Charters
Valdez, Alaska



MAY 03 1999

Old Harbor Tribal Council

P.O. Box 62, Old Harbor, Alaska 99643
Phone: (907) 286-2215 Fax: (907) 286-2277

April 27, 1999

Honorable Tony Knowles
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Decisions by Board of Fish

Dear Governor Knowles,

The Old Harbor Tribal Council wishes to thank you and the Board of Fish for the closure of Sitkalidak Straits to hard on bottom trawling. This is an important marine rearing area adjacent to our community that should have been protected many years ago. Finally, during their March meeting, the Board of Fish resolved to limit the destruction caused by the hard on bottom trawls.

We wish to commend Chairman John White for his deliberative management of the trawl issue and especially want to recognize the efforts of the Board's ground fish committee, Larry Engle, Ed Dursham and Virgil Umphenour to understand the issue and to work with stakeholders toward compromise. Virgil Umphenour, in particular, took the time to visit with representatives from our community and to discuss their concerns.

I would also want to thank the Board of Fish for their cautious approach to tanner crab management in the Kodiak area. We believe the new Tanner Crab Management Plan will prove an effective tool for conservative use of tanner crab stocks. We remain concerned, however, about the status of red king crab in the Gulf of Alaska and encourage you and your staff to motivate ADF&G to develop a comprehensive red king crab recovery plan for the Gulf of Alaska.

If you have any questions about our comments, please contact our office in Old Harbor.

Very truly yours,

Tony Azuyak, President

cc Senator Jerry Mackie
Representative Alan Austerman
Senator Rick Halford, Senate Resource Chairman
Chairman John White, Board of Fish



Southeast Alaska Seiners

April 21, 1999

Senator Rick Halford
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford and members of the Resources Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Southeast Alaska Seiners, a membership organization which represents commercial fishermen, to urge you to support the confirmation of Grant Miller to the Board of Fisheries. In addition, we believe that it is time to include on the Board of Fisheries additional members who have knowledge of the commercial fisheries.

The Board of Fisheries is charged with stewardship of our fishery resources in compliance with the sustained yield principle of the Alaska Constitution. In order to accomplish this important function, the law calls for appointment to the Board of individuals with knowledge and ability in the regulation of the fisheries. Thus, in order to perform its function, the Board of Fisheries must have members who are conversant with the fisheries under its authority.

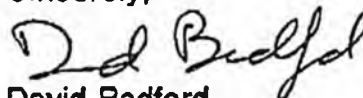
Most of the harvest of Alaska's fishery resources takes place in commercial fisheries. Most of this harvest occurs in marine waters with much of it comprised of species, such as shrimp, crab, and ground fish, that spend no part of their life cycle in the fresh water. As such, it is critical that the Board of Fisheries include individuals who have not only a commitment to the effective management of the commercial marine fisheries but who also bring their personal knowledge of these fisheries to the Board's deliberations.

In Southeast Alaska, the commercial fishing industry provides 7500 full-time, year-round jobs in a region with about 75,000 residents. Thus, effective regulation of the commercial fisheries that conserves the resource and provides for efficient harvest of surplus production is crucial to the continued economic health of the region. To assure effective regulation, the Board should have members who have knowledge of the marine commercial fisheries.

SEAS supports Grant Miller for reappointment to the Board of Fisheries because he has served well in his past term and because he is the only member of the Board with experience in the commercial fisheries beyond near-shore, terminal area salmon fisheries. In addition, SEAS believes that the Board of Fisheries would be well served by appointment of other members who can supply expertise in the marine commercial fisheries that are the life's blood of our coastal communities.

Thank you for your attention to these comments. If I can provide anything further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



David Bedford
Executive Director

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

122 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 600
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4897
PHONE 907/452-8251 • FAX 907/459-3850

May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford
Chair, Senate Resources Committee

Dear Senator Halford:

After further review we would like to take this opportunity to reconsider our previous opposition to the appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fish. After careful consideration of the available facts we have determined that it is in our best interest to support this seat as a representative for the Interior on the Board of Fish. Mr. Umphenour has a great deal of experience with Interior fishery issues, and knowledge about our villages.

We respectfully request that you consider retaining Mr. Umphenour on the Board of Fish. Maintaining this Interior seat on the Board of Fish is vital to our village economies.

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, Inc.

for Steve Ginnis
Steve Ginnis
President

cc: Interior Tribal Councils

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	5/4/99	# of pages	1
To	Rick Halford	From	Steve Ginnis		
Co./Dept.	SRC	Co.	TCC		
Phone #	465-4928	Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			

Subject: Board of Fisheries Appointments

Date: Mon, 03 May 1999 15:18:04 -0800

From: "Donald J. Braun" <donbraun@alaska.net>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford:

Please add the City of Chignik to those who support the reappointment of Virgil Umphenour. He has not always voted for us but he has been open with us regarding our interest in such things as:

1. The Area L State Waters Pacific Cod Fishery. You might recall that it was the reply of NMFS to my letter that was the pivotal document in the NPFMC accepting the notion that the P.Cod TAC should have a state waters component.

2. The larger issue of survival of Chignik fishermen and other small boat fishermen. The local Pacific Cod fishery contributed to that effort. Mr. Umphenour evidently extends a Fairbanks/small farmer perspective to the small boat fleets. We contend that this adds balance to the Board of Fisheries.

3. Mr. Umphenour has sought to preserve crab habitat. Our fleet would like to again harvest crab in the area. We see Mr. Umphenour's positions as consistent with small boat interests and contend that this interest is consistent with one of the guiding provisions, coastal community support, of Magnuson-Stevens.

4. As mentioned, he doesn't always agree with us. But he certainly will listen to us.

I realize that this endorsement is at the last minute. The Corps of Engineers has been occupying my time--I'm guessing that you might have seen and heard that statement in the past if not in the present.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

Donald J. Braun, City Administrator, City of Chignik

Subject: Senate Confirmation of Virgil Umphenour to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Date: Mon, 3 May 1999 16:56:52 -0800

From: "Robert Sundown" <rsundown@unicom-alaska.com>

To: <Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Rick,

I'm writing to you on behalf of Coastal Villages Region Fund, an Alaskan fishing corporation. We are in support of Virgil Umphenour's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Virgil has served the state's interest for all user groups and has held a fair and impartial view siding on the side of resource management and conservation, while understanding the importance of commercial fisheries to the state.

Because of his avid and well founded support of terminal fisheries, we believe he has the best interest of the fisheries and users in mind. Please share our support of Virgil Umphenour in your confirmation of his appointment to the Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely Yours,
Coastal Villages Region Fund

Robert Sundown, Business & Operations Manager



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Comm
Fish Board Confirmation committee name

committee on _____, dated 4/3/99
bill # / subject

Please record my support for the confirmation of Coffey, Umpenhorn and Miller to continue as members of the Board of Fisheries. They have shown a sincere desire to be thorough in their analysis on controversial issues and have displayed a high degree of fairness in their deliberations.

Signed: Don A. McKay
Testifier

Kenai River Sportfishing Assoc (Board member)
Representing (Optional)

32992 Johnson's Dr., Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-260-6675
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on BO OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

Regarding the reappointment of Virgil Umphenour,
Dan Coffey, and Grant Miller.

I oppose the reappointment of all three board members. They have consistently ignored the testimony of the commercial fishermen of Cook Inlet, as well as the biologists of the Alaska Department of fish and game. (Comm. fish Division)

They have brought a level of personal bias into the board meetings never before seen by me in over 20 years of involvement. (example) Dan Coffey told several of us during a break in his first year on the board. "I am a one issue guy - to get you out of the way and let more fish up to the Mat-Su." (para-phrased)

The other two seem to follow Dan Coffey's lead - and have consistently voted to downgrade the commercial fisheries of Cook Inlet.

Signed:

James L. Emerson (JIM EVENSON)
Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

Box 304 Kenai, AK. 99611

Address

(907) 776-8060

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on BO OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

Sirs,

I urge you not to confirm Don Coffey, Virgil Umpenaar, or Grant Miller to the BOF. I bought a Cook Inlet Drift permit in 1990. The state loaned me money to do this through the Dept. of Commerce + Economic Development. Since these board members have served, 40% of my fishing potential has been reallocated to other interests. These board members have consistently voted for these reallocations. If the legislature confirms these candidates again, wouldn't it seem fair ~~to~~ for the legislature to also appropriate funds to relieve me of 40% of my debt to the state?

The current board of fisheries has proven to be devastating to our fishery. There needs to be people on the board of fisheries that are concerned with the well-being of our commercial fisheries in Cook Inlet. Unanimous votes by the board of fisheries to reallocate the resource doesn't show that they have everyone's support to do the right thing, it shows the lack of representation for our side of the issues and it shows the magnitude of the efficiency of a pre-set agenda.

Please remember, I've lost 40% of my salmon income.

Signed: Rian J. Vanele
Testifier
Self
Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 251 Nimitchik Ak 99 639
Address
567-7394
Phone number

To: ~~Senate~~ Resources Committee

Subject: Re-appointment of three board members to board of fisheries

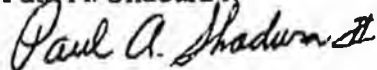
Date: MAY 3 1999

I come before this committee today to express my discontent with the current make up of the B.O.F. Of the three members up for re-appointment, two members have served for at least one complete term and still do not know how to present motions in any unstatutable regulatory language. Therefore they are incompetent to serve the people of Alaska. The third member has a pre-disposed agenda and is not open to any new concepts other than his own. There is no compromise in this position. Does this serve the people of Alaska? The current make up of the B.O.F. ignores the impact of their decisions and how they affect the local long term residents on the Kenai Peninsula. These board members tailor biological data that changes an abundant economy into one that is meager and of limited growth. A Profile of the Commercial Fishing Industry (Kenai Peninsula Borough) states that 22% of the residents and participants of the Kenai Borough's Commercial Fishery are of Alaskan Native ancestry. The B.O.F. states that they review the history before making impacting regulations, but they do not consider the impact on all the small communities and the impact by percentage of commercial fisherman in these communities.

These small communities are the backbone of rural economies of Alaska and in the Kenai Borough they are seriously overlooked by the B.O.F. The 1998 Soldotna board of fish dismantled the 1978 Cook Inlet Management Plan but stated that they implemented like considerations in their new step-down plan. Upon reviewing the B.O.F. considerations in the original 1978 plan, #2 "The commercial fishing industry in the Cook Inlet is a valuable long-term asset of the state and must be protected.....", #3 "...as recreational demands increase, the recreational users must be aware of what stocks will be managed primarily for commercial harvest in order that they don't become overly dependent on the fish for recreational purposes.....". These considerations are nowhere written in these new step-down plans. Forgotten? Or purposely negated?!! This board does not have equal representation and has never had an advocate of the Commercial Set-Net fishery statewide or even in Cook Inlet in spite of the fact that it is the dominant Limited Entry Permit Holder statewide! At present time, there is no represented, commercially knowledgeable, B.O.F. member who understands or has any commercial history in Cook Inlet. Yet there are three members that represent lesser users of the total resource. It is no wonder that recent regulations adopted for the major traditional user restricts that user to a lesser, non-viable category. Prejudice, contempt, bias, dipsomania, un-informed, arrogant, DIRTY DEEDS DONE DIRT CHEAP are all terms that I could use in describing the current board re-appointees. PLEASE, out of fairness and decency, DO NOT RE-CONFIRM: DAN COFFEY, GRANT MILLER, and VIRGIL UMPENHAUER.

From a hundred year family resident of the Kenai Peninsula

Paul A. Shadura II





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SPES

committee name

committee on

Board of Fisheries

, dated

5/3/99

bill # subject

*Please accept the following as
written testimony*

Signed:

Kenai Liu

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Mr. Hudson, my name _____ Box 87 Alim / Chik

The present board of fish came to Soldotna last winter, put more fish and more people on the Kenai River and did nothing to mitigate habitat degradation. Fish don't spawn on boardwalks. Actions taken by this board restricted the drift fleet, removing the 3 best openings without financial consideration mandated by their own allocation criteria. The present board allocated fish to non-resident sport fishermen, taking them from resident commercial fishermen. The state constitution stipulates against allocating natural resources to non-residents and if this was gold or oil or timber such an allocation would not be tolerated.

This board circumvented the advisory committees ~~process~~, instituted a new committee process without the traditional public notice or comment period.

ColumbiaWards Cannery closed their doors in Kenai. Icicle Seafoods in Homer has chosen not to rebuild. Net loss 200-300 jobs, both companies stating the difficulty of trying to do business in a hostile regulatory environment.

Is this the purpose and function of the board of fish, to close businesses, bankrupt fishermen, allocate resources, redistribute jobs and dollars?

90% of the states total sport and commercial economic value is not represented by this board. There are 3 Cook Inlet sport fish advocates on the present board. Geographic and economic representation has never been worse.

Without armed guards, without hiding behind the gavel, come back to Soldotna and explain how the board justifies killing so many jobs on the Kenai Peninsula. I ^{urge} encourage you not to accompany Miller, Wapenham, and Coffey.

John M. Stanley
Nimilchik, AK

Fax 907-283-7205

May 03, 1999

Dick & Molly Musgrove
PO Box 3522
Kenai, Alaska 99611

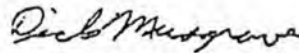
We oppose the reconfirmation of Mr. Coffee to Board of Fish.

He voted to increase the maximum escapement goal for the Kenai River with out any concern about the future survival of this magnificent system. As Fish & Game have shown over escapment of salmon year after year is detrimental to the future of this fishery. He must realize too many fish up this River just decreases the number of spawners that return. His interests seem to be about getting more fish in the river for sportsmen and guides immediate compensation, than the health of this system.

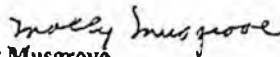
Also Mr. Coffee does not seem concerned about the jobs lost or the effect on the local economy.

For these reasons we are opposed to Mr. Coffee being reappointed to the Board of Fish. Please consider future board members who are concerned about the health and the environment of this River for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely yours



Dick Musgrove



Molly Musgrove

In my opinion the present Fish Board has shown total disregard for the health and well being of the Kenai River with no consideration to (and in fact encouraging) over escapment and habitat distruction.

I feel this board has a predetermined goal of killing the entire Cook Inlet drainage. Therefore I urge the legislature to not confirm:

Dan Coffee
Virgil Umphenour
Grant Miller

They have also shown total disregard for the economy of the entire Kenai Peninsula.



Steve Vanek
P.O. Box 103
Ninilchik, AK, 99639

Re - Confirmation of BOF Appointment.

Dear Legislators:

My name is Steve Vanek. I have been the secretary of the local advisory committee for more than 15 years. I have been a salmon drift fisherman for more than 30 years. I oppose the confirmation of Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour, and Grant Muller.

These men have had an agenda for Cook Inlet. Namely to allocate fish away from the commercial sector. We've met seven times in the last 4 years on Cook Inlet as they tried various ways to attack the commercial fishing industry. An agenda change request was made every year to take Cook Inlet out of cycle. These men passed everyone of these agenda change requests. That has ~~cost~~ ^{cost} us all a lot of time and money. Persons with an agenda do not belong on the Board of Fish.

Mr. Coffey has destroyed the public process and the advisory committee process, with his new Board committees. Public involvement through public testimony and the advisory

Steve Vanek

Committees is now just a bothersome formality. The real business is done in these committees, committees appointed by Mr. Cafe. Committees made up basically of lobbyists. Would you, the legislators, conduct States' business by calling all the lobbyists into a committee meeting and then try to reach consensus? Would this make your job easier? Would it take less time? Would it be fair to the public you serve? Our system of representative govt would have to change because now the public would need to elect those lobbyists in order to have any representation on those special committees. This committee process was shoved down our throats by this Board of Fish.

The management of Fish and Game belongs to the legislature in this State not to the Governor. You are asking the Board of Fish to do your business. The Governor appoints, but you confirm. This Governor had a plan for fisheries management in Cook Inlet and appointed these people to carry out his plan. But these people are supposed to do the legislature's business not the Governor's business. I suggest you look harder at these people. You are asked to confirm. Are they doing your business? I hope not. I hope you are not trying to destroy a valuable economic base in this State. Do not confirm these men!

Steve Vanek



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on BD OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

I LEND MY + OUR STAFFS, FULL SUPPORT
TO RECONFIRM, TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES:

MR. DAN COFFEE

" VIRGIL UMPHENOUR

" GRANT MILLER

FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND UNDERSTANDING
OF A DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE COOK INLET
AREA.

Signed: Herman E. Fandel
Testifier

OUR THREE ALASKA BUSINESSES
Representing (Optional)

702 LAWTON DRIVE, KENAI AK 99621
Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
committee name
 committee on FISHERIES, dated 5/3/99
bill # / subject

I HAVE PROVIDED ALL OF YOU FOLKS A REPORT PREPARED BY ME. THIS REPORT WAS TITLED "UNITED TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF OUR LAND."

PLEASE UTILIZE THE REPORT AS MY WRITTEN COMMENTS WHY I AM OPPOSED TO CONFIRMATION OF THE THREE FISH BOARD MEMBERS THAT ARE UP FOR RECONFIRMATION.

Signed: *[Signature]*
Testifier
COMMERCIAL FISHING FAMILIES
Representing (Optional)
Box 318, CLAM GULCH, ALASKA 99568
Address
907-567-3419 - 907-262-9164
Phone number