

**CONFIRM  
ATIONS  
2015 -  
BOARD OF  
FISHERIES**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>CONFIRMATIONS 2015 - BOARD  
OF FISHERIES</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA29</COMM></TARGET>

Appointment not reported out of senate state Affairs.  
No action taken.

**SENATE  
CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date: 4/13/2015

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the State Affairs Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointment be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

**Board of Fisheries**

Robert Ruffner – Soldotna

Appointed: 3/23/2015

Reappointed: 7/1/2015

Term Expires: 6/30/2015

Term Expires: 6/30/2019

This does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual during any further sessions.

Signature:	Printed Last Name
	Coghill
	Huggins
	Wielechowski
Chair:	Stoltze

Please return to the Senate Secretary's Office (Room 211).

*Nominee not reported out of Senate State Affairs.  
No action taken.*

**SENATE  
CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date: 4/13/2015

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the State Affairs Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointment be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

**Board of Fisheries**

Orville Huntington – Huslia

Appointed: 7/1/2012

Reappointed: 7/1/2015

Term Expires: 6/30/2018

This does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual during any further sessions.

Signature:	Printed Last Name
	Coghill
	Huggins
	Wielechowski
Chair:	Stoltze

Please return to the Senate Secretary's Office (Room 211).



# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate


### Office of the Secretary

State Capitol, Room 211  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3701  
Fax: (907) 465-2832  
Email: senate.secretary@akleg.gov

Official Business

## Memorandum

TO: Senator Stoltze, Chair  
State Affairs Committee

FROM:  Liz Clark  
Secretary of the Senate

DATE: March 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Governor's Appointment

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

### **Board of Fisheries**

Robert Ruffner – Soldotna

Appointed: 3/23/2015

Reappointed: 7/1/2015

Term Expires: 6/30/2015

Term Expires: 6/30/2019

Resume will be transmitted electronically.

LC:bbr  
gl #9



# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### Office of the Secretary

State Capitol, Room 211  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3701  
Fax: (907) 465-2832  
Email: senate.secretary@akleg.gov

Official Business

## Memorandum

TO: Senator Stoltze, Chair  
State Affairs Committee

FROM: Liz Clark *LC*  
Secretary of the Senate

DATE: March 31, 2015

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Governor's Appointment

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

### **Board of Fisheries**

Orville Huntington – Huslia

Appointed: 7/1/2012

Reappointed: 7/1/2015

Term Expires: 6/30/2018

Resume will be transmitted electronically.

LC:bbr  
gl# 10



# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### Office of the Secretary

State Capitol, Room 211  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3701  
Fax: (907) 465-2832  
Email: senate.secretary@akleg.gov

Official Business

## Memorandum

TO: Senator Stoltze, Chair  
State Affairs Committee

FROM: Liz Clark   
Secretary of the Senate

DATE: February 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of Governor's Appointment

The following appointment, which had been referred to your committee on January 23, has been withdrawn:

**Board of Fisheries**  
Dr. Roland Maw – Kasilof

LC:bbr  
gl #5



# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### Office of the Secretary

State Capitol, Room 211  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3701  
Fax: (907) 465-2832  
Email: senate.secretary@akleg.gov

Official Business

## Memorandum

TO: Senator Stoltze, Chair  
State Affairs Committee

FROM: Liz Clark  
Secretary of the Senate

DATE: January 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Governor's Appointments

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

#### **Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission**

Verne Rupright – Wasilla

Appointed: 1/19/2015

Term Expires: 3/1/2017

#### **Board of Fisheries**

Dr. Roland Maw – Kasilof

Appointed: 1/19/2015

Term Expires: 6/30/2018

Resumes will be transmitted electronically.

LC:bbr  
gl #1

*Executive Summary***Roland R. Maw, BSc., MEd., PhD.***Fisheries:*

- North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission – 5 years
- Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee – 6 years
- Kenai River Special Management Area – Board Member, 3 years
- United Fishermen of Alaska, Litigation Team Member – OCEANA Lawsuit
- United Cook Inlet Drift Association – Executive Director, 11 years
- Educated fishery biologists and enforcement officers – 30 years
- Commercial salmon and halibut fishing – 33 years
- Charter sport fishing – 3 salt water vessels, co-owner – 15 years
- Conducted biological-acoustical salmonoid research – 16 years
- Author, sportfishing book, centennial edition, 1985, Parks, Canada
- Chalky halibut research, International Pacific Halibut Commission

*Wildlife:*

- Class A big-game guide – 5 years (brown bear, moose, sheep)
- Grizzly and black bear management research – PhD
- Conducted study concerning wildlife management in China for United Nations
- Fatality hearing officer, U.S. National Park Service, bear mauling death(s)
- Educated wildlife, biological and enforcement officers

*Administrative/Executive:*

- Special Constable, Alaska State Troopers – 3 years
- Superintendent Chugach and Kenai-Kodiak Districts – Alaska Parks
- University Board of Governors / Senator – 6 years
- Chairman, charitable societies – 20 years
- 120+ million dollars, budget preparation, approvals and control
- 200+ million dollars, worth of negotiated contracts

*Parks:*

- Senior Operating Officer – Alaska State Parks System at age 27
- Senior Parks Planner – Greater Anchorage Area Borough
- Park Management and Public Policy Instructor – University of California
- Park Management and Public Policy Instructor – Lethbridge College

*Public Relations:*

- T.V., radio, newspaper – appearances and articles
- Firm but fair with public
- Mediator, conflict resolution abilities

*Personal Skills/Beliefs:*

- Computer literate
- Practical/pragmatic problem solver
- Enjoys organizing work and strategic planning for the future
- Able to work within bylaws and policy guidelines
- Can delegate a wide variety of tasks and activities
- Hard-working and intellectually competitive

**ROLAND RICHARD MAW, Jr.**



**PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:**

To manage and regulate the use of natural resources for the benefit of individuals and companies while protecting the unique nature and diversity of ecological systems

**EDUCATION:**

*Degrees*

- Ph.D. Degree, 1988
  - Major: Forestry and Wildland Management
  - Minor: Natural Resource Management
  - Dissertation: Black and Grizzly Bear Management
  - University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Master of Education Degree, 1970
  - Major: Education, Outdoor Recreation
  - Minor: Biology/Resource Management
  - Thesis: Wilderness Area Management
  - Brigham Young University
- Bachelor of Science Degree, 1969
  - Majors: Zoology, Animal Ecology
  - Minor: Botany
  - Weber State College
- High School Graduation
  - Major: Sciences
  - Butte High School, Butte, Montana

*Alaska Organizations*

- Kenai River Special Management Area Board Member
- Litigation Team Member "OCEANA Case" – United Fishermen of Alaska
- Kenai Wild Salmon Marketing – Vice President, 4 years
- Member, United Fishermen of Alaska, Vice President of Administration
- Board Member, Soldotna/Kenai Alaska Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committee – 6 years
- Legacy Economic Planning – For Alaska's Future Fisheries Committee, Office of the Governor
- Beluga Whale "Endangered Species" Stakeholder Committee, NOAA/NMFS

*Special Training and Licenses*

- 100 Ton U.S. Coast Guard Master – US Merchant Marine Officer
- Biotelemetry Workshop, Telonics Inc. – radio telemetry
- Class A Big-Game Guide – 5 years
- Advanced Red Cross and C.P.R. Heart Foundation Instructor
- Evidence and Court Procedures, Alaska State Trooper Academy
- Avalanche and Cold Weather Survival Training, U.S. Forest Service, USA Army

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

### *North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, 2007-2011*

- Commissioner – 5 year appointment by the US Department of State/ NOAA/NMFS. Nominated by the Governor of the State of Alaska.
- Represent Alaska on this International Commission that implements the International Treaties prohibiting high seas salmon drift net fishing. Commission helps coordinate the research on anadromous species by Canada, Russia, Japan, Korea and USA.

### *Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, Kenai, Alaska*

Board of Directors, 5 year term

- The Aquaculture Association is responsible for the habitat restoration and enhancement of salmon stocks in the Cook Inlet region. The Association conducts stock assessments for spawners, fry and smolt. The Association also operates two salmon hatcheries and rearing facilities.
- Member of Executive Committee – Budget and personnel issues

### *Harvest Time Charters and Maw Tendering, Kenai, Alaska, 1980-Present*

Co-Owner

- Charters for salmon and halibut, overnight adventure trips, Homer, Alaska
- Provide vessels, scientific, logistical and analytical support to the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division concerning salmon migration patterns.
- \$200,000.00. Operate several fiberglass gillnet/long-liner vessels in the Cook Inlet, Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound for 30 years.

### *United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Soldotna, Alaska, November 2001-Present*

Executive Director

- Provided scientific and technical review of Alaska Department of Fish & Game reports
- Analyzed regulatory proposals before Board of Fisheries
- Prepared written reports and testimony at Board of Fisheries hearings
- Manage the daily operations and approve financial expenses
- Respond to public inquiries, provide media interviews

### *International Pacific Halibut Commission, Homer, Alaska, August, 2001*

Vessel Master Research on Chalky Halibut

- Provided technical and vessel support for sampling of halibut for chalky conditions
- Conducted visual and scientific sampling procedures
- Operated vessel, long line gear and supervised crew

### *Lethbridge College, Lethbridge, Alberta, 1974 to May 2001*

Department Environmental Science – taught the following courses:

1. Foundations of Conservation, Ethics and Philosophy of Renewable Resource Management
2. Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitat Evaluation
3. Park Operations and Contract Administration
4. Issues in Resource Conservation, Economics, Tort Liabilities
5. Administration Procedures, Supervisory Practices and Principles
6. Problem Wildlife Management Techniques and Practices

### *State of Alaska Division of Parks, Anchorage, Alaska, August 1972 to September 1974.*

Superintendent of State Parks – Responsible for:

1. Senior Staff Officer to Director of Division.  
Duties included:
  - prepared annual work plans and strategies
  - coordination of regional operations with divisional operations
  - designed cost/benefit analysis procedures
  - reviewed capital projects and established priorities for funding
  - conducted public and quasi-judicial hearings
  - prepared legislation and regulations for division
  - prepared public replies to letter of inquiry for Director/Governor's office

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** continued

2. Chugach and Kenai-Kodiak Districts.  
Duties included:
  - budget preparation and signing authority for operating accounts
  - planning and adjudication of resource allocation issues
  - staff hiring, evaluation and training
  - resource management, inventory, and management plans
  - public relations - developed and administered information systems
  - public safety and law enforcement coordination
3. Developed and established Search and Rescue operations involving lost hikers, cross-country skiers, downed aircraft and avalanche victims in and around the State Park areas.
4. Special Officer, Commission with Alaska State Troopers, 3 years.

*Greater Anchorage Area Borough*, Anchorage, Alaska, February 1972 to August 1972

Outdoor Recreation Planner

- In this position, was responsible for the resource analysis, research, preparation and final writing of park and recreational master plans for communities in the Anchorage area.

*California State University at Northridge*, Northridge, California, July 1970 to February 1972

Parks Management Instructor

- The major responsibilities of this position were to develop, organize and teach several classes involving resource management, outdoor recreation, independent studies and direct internship (field experience). Also was responsible for being an advisor to some 40 students.

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, West Yellowstone and Madison Districts, Montana, April 1963 to Sept. 1963

Special Supervisor for Biological Control Programs (Problem Wildlife)

- Supervised field workers in poisoning of predators and rodents, prepared 1,080 poisoned oats and carcass baits.

**SPECIAL SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

*Administrative/Educational:*

- Creative problem solver when appropriate
- Effective teacher with supervisory skills
- Enjoy working with individuals
- Ability to communicate effectively with staff and public
- Sensitive to individual needs and abilities
- Sensitive to cultural differences and rights
- Computer literate with statistical, accounting and word processing programs

*Forestry/Fisheries Management:*

- Author of Fisheries Book, scientific papers
- Economic analysis and policy formulation
- Budget preparation operations and analysis
- Land survey, mapping, air photo interpretation
- Wildland management planning and operations
- Forest fire fighting practices and equipment
- Radio Telemetry - wildlife and fisheries
- Operation of sampling and testing equipment

**SPECIAL SKILLS AND ABILITIES:** continued**Marine:**

- Coastal navigation; maps, GPS and Radar
- Depth Sounders, Sonar, multiscanning systems
- Radio operations, CB, VHF and Single Sideband
- Engine; maintenance and operation Cat, Detroit Diesels
- Engine; maintenance and operation gas and diesel 4 and 2 cycle
- Gillnetting/Long lining; techniques, equipment and repairs
- Fish processing; all aspects of primary and secondary processing
- Vessel captain 100 Ton Master, US Merchant Marine

**PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS:****International:**

- *Heilongjiang, China - World Wildlife Fund, United Nations (UNESCO)*  
Scientific Exchange, 1986, concerning Wildlife, Parks and Nature Reserves  
Met with and reviewed administrative practices in Ministry of Forestry  
Developed strategies of how to deal with change
- *National Recreation & Park Associations, N.R.P.A.*  
Board Member Park Practice, 1978-1979  
Alaska Area Membership Chairman, 1974-1975
- *XI Sigma Pi, Alpha Tau Chapter (Forestry Honours Society)*
- *Waterton Lakes National Park, Biosphere Reserve*  
Man and the Biosphere Reserve Program (UNESCO)  
Technical Committee, 1986-1989  
Management Committee member, 1986-1989

**Provincial:**

- *College Board of Governors, Lethbridge, Alberta*  
1991-1994; Annual Budget: \$32,000,000.00; 700+ employees
- *University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta*  
Senator – Rural Area Representative  
Member of University Senate, 1988-1994
- *Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, Alberta Culture*  
Board of Directors, 1987-1988  
Consultant – Special Advisor, 1986-1988, concerning:
  - Cooperating Association
  - Commercial Product developments
  - Public and Volunteer projects

**RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS:**

1. **Bear Management Plan**  
Bow Valley Corridor, 1993. Roland R. Maw et al.
2. **Feasibility study of Acoustic Techniques for Adult Salmon Assessment in Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska**  
1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996. Biosconics Inc. Seattle, Washington. Technical, logistical and vessel support.
3. **Board of Inquiry**  
Into the death of John Petronyi, October 3, 1992. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Glacier National Park, East Glacier, Montana.

**RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS: continued**

4. **Visitor Perceptions and Bear Management: Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada**  
1988, Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Forestry, University of Alberta.
5. **Heilongjiang, China - Alberta, Canada, Canada Scientific Exchange**  
1986, concerning: Wildlife, Parks and Nature Reserves.
6. **Fishing Canada's Mountain Parks**  
1985 Lone Pine Publishing, ISBN 0-919433-43-X, 9,000 copies sold.
7. **Co-operative Activities**  
Canadian Assembly, Heritage for Tomorrow Conference, Banff, Alberta, Conference Proceedings, 1985.
8. **Economic Considerations Regarding Outdoor Recreation and Forestry in Alberta**  
Alberta Wilderness Association, Conference Proceedings, April 1984
9. **The Layman's Ability to Distinguish Between Black and Grizzly Bears**  
The Third Predator Symposium, March 23, 1984, Missoula, Montana.
10. **Bear Behavior Patterns**  
1978, Lethbridge Community College, Lethbridge, Alberta. This is a guide that describes some 40 behavioral patterns and associated functions of both black and grizzly bears. This publication is for problem wildlife officers and National State Parks employees.
11. **Outdoor Recreational Potential, Chugach Regional Native Land Selections**  
Chugach Regional Native Corporation. This was a review of all regional and village lands, from which land selections were to be made, to determine the outdoor recreational potential, 75 pp.
12. **Development Prospectus Kachemak Bay, State Park**  
1973, Alaska Division of Parks, Anchorage, Alaska. This was a prospectus that interested parties used to analyze the economic potentials of private concessions. The prospectus contained the contract that was going to be used to allow private concessions in the park.
13. **Development Prospectus Chugach State Park**  
1973, Alaska Division of Parks, Anchorage, Alaska. The prospectus also contained a sample contract under which a concessionaire was to operate. Author.
14. **Campbell Creek Greenbelt Master Plan**  
1972, Greater Anchorage Area Borough, Anchorage, Alaska. This is a 30-page Master Plan concerning the acquisition and subsequent development of a 300-acre Greenbelt (Park Strip) along Campbell Creek that flows through the center of the Anchorage Area. There was a two million dollar bond issue approved by the voters to implement the Master Plan.

**RESEARCH GRANTS, ASSISTANTSHIPS AND SABBATICAL AWARDS:**

1. Forestry Research Block Grant, \$2,000.00
2. Northern Boreal Institute Research Grants, \$2,500.00
3. University of Alberta, Forest Science Department Assistantship, \$2,580.00
4. Board of Governors, \$29,000.00, Sabbatical
5. Board of Governors, \$9,000.00, China Scientific Exchange
6. Conservation Enforcement Degree Program, \$285,000.00 per year

**3KN-96-01461CR**

Case Type: Crim Dist Ct Misd (3KN)  
Status Date: 08/20/1996  
Case Judge: Atwood, Roberta L  
Next Event:

Case Status: Closed  
File Date: 08/20/1996  
DCM Track:

All Information Party Charge Docket Financial Financial Dockets

**Party Information**

Maw, Roland R - Defendant

DOB 11/17/1943 Alias

Attorney/Bar Code Phone Number

State of Alaska - Prosecution

DOB Alias

Attorney/Bar Code Phone Number  
District Attorney (3KN) (DA3KN) (907)283-3131

**Party Charge Information**

Maw, Roland R - Defendant

Charge # 1: zAS1605675A12 #1 - Violation or Infraction (Non-Criminal) AS16.05.675(A)(1)(2): NO HALIBUT PERMIT

Original Charge zAS1605675A12 #1 AS16.05.675(A)(1)(2): NO HALIBUT PERMIT (Violation or Infraction (Non-Criminal))

Indicted Charge  
Amended Charge  
DV Related?  
Modifiers None  
Stage Date 08/20/1996

ATN # 101289393  
Tracking # 001  
Date of Offense 08/10/1996

**Party Charge Disposition**  
Disposition Date 08/29/1996  
Disposition No Contest Plea Prior to Conversion

Sentencing Information

**Docket Information**

Date	Description	Docket Text	Amount
08/20/1996	All records prior to (Conversion Date) converted records. For more information please	All Records Prior to 10/02/09 are Converted Records. For more information please come to the Clerks Office with the case number or mail inquiries to: Kenai Trial Courts 125 Trading Bay Drive Suite 100 Kenai, AK 99611. Please note that some converted data, especially dates, may be incorrect due to data entry errors prior to conversion.	
08/20/1996	Filed Date:	Filed Date: Aug 20 1996	
08/20/1996	Historical Receipt Information	** CONVERTED PAYMENT HISTORY AS OF 10/03/09 ----- Receipt Date : 09/05/96 Receipt Number : 217149 Amount : \$250 Party from : MAW, ROLAND, R	

From :  
 ROLAND R MAW  
 KENAI AK  
 99611

Tender : CA  
 Tender : 3KN  
 Orig. Court : 3KN  
 Acct1 : 500  
 Total : 250  
 Comments : FINE  
 33date : 09051996  
 34time : 1314  
 35posted : P

08/29/1996 Closed Date:

Closed Date: Aug 29 1996

08/29/1996 Sentencing Info:

Sentencing Info:  
 Jdg: RLA  
 Jail:  
 Jsus:  
 Fine: \$250  
 Fsus: \$  
 Lic:  
 Lic Act:  
 Term:  
 AS:  
 Prob:  
 NCV:  
 NSV:  
 Rest: \$  
 Fine Cnd Prb: \$  
 Due:  
 Rest Cnd Prb: \$  
 Due:

09/05/1996 Fine Prior to Conversion

Fine Prior to Conversion  
 Txt: FINE  
 At: 3KN  
 Adj Amt:  
 Rcpt#: 217149  
 Amt Rcvd: 250  
 HowPd: CA  
 Pl/DefLst: MAW  
 FN: ROLAND  
 MI: R  
 DOB:  
 Rcvd Frm: MAW, ROLAND R  
 Chk#:  
 Amt Pd:  
 Rsn:  
 PdTo:  
 F:  
 M:  
 D: 09/05/1996

09/05/1996 Fine Due

Fine Due  
 Original Amount Owed: \$250.00  
 Amount Paid Before Conversion: \$250.00

\$0.00

**Financial Summary**

Cost Type	Amount Owed	Amount Paid	Amount Adjusted	Amount Outstanding
Fine	\$250.00	\$0.00	Ⓢ \$250.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Financial Docket Information**

Date	Description	Owed	Adjusted	Paid	Due	Due Date
09/05/1996	Fine Due	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	08/29/1996
		\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

# STATE OF ALASKA

**Central Peninsula Fish & Game  
Advisory Committee**

**Bill Walker, Governor**

David Martin, Chair  
PO Box 468  
Clam Gulch, AK 99568  
907-567-3306  
dmartin@alaska.net

Feb. 11, 2015

Alaska State Legislators,

At our Feb. 11, 2015 Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee we unanimously voted to request the Legislature confirm Dr. Roland Maw to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Dr. Maw is highly respected for his biological knowledge and scientific approach to fisheries management. His qualifications are impressive and he is a good communicator. He is a fair and honest man. His work and philosophy has consistently placed the health of the fish resource first. He is cognizant for all users needs of the resource. Alaska's fish resources are only sustainable with using reliable science for management.

Thank you for considering our request,

Steve Vanek, AC Secretary

# UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

PO Box 20538, Juneau, AK 99802 (253) 237-3099 Google Voice usag.alaska@gmail.com  
www.akgillnet.org

February 17, 2015

Senate Resources Committee

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair  
Senator John Coghill  
Senator Mia Costello  
Senator Peter Micciche  
Senator Bert Stedman  
Senator Bill Stoltze  
Senator Bill Wielechowski

Dear Senator Giessel and Committee Members,

Re: Board of Fisheries Confirmation

We are pleased to **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Dr. Roland Maw to the Board of Fisheries.

Dr. Maw brings a wealth of academic credentials and practical experience in fishery management to the Board. He does his homework by thoroughly reviewing data and legal requirements. He is fully aware of the socio-economic impacts of Board decisions on all fishery sectors. He has solid business experience in both the commercial and sport sectors. He has extensive experience working in boards and committees; he is able to work as a team member, yet think critically. He has shown himself to be respectful of the public, ADFG staff, and the public process.

Dr. Maw is deeply committed to ensuring that Alaska's fisheries are sustainable well into the future and he will make the decisions necessary to ensure this sustainability.

The United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) is an association of about 170 small business owners who catch salmon by drift gillnetting in Southeast Alaska and market salmon throughout the United States. USAG is a southeast wide organization that seeks to represent the common interests of all 473 drift permit holders.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our comments and encourage you to understand the facts about Dr. Maw and disregard unfounded innuendo.

Sincerely,

*Tom Gemmell*

Thomas M Gemmell  
Executive Director

Copy: Senator Dennis Egan  
Representative Sam Kito III  
Representative Jonathan Kreis-Tomkins  
Representative Cathy Munoz  
Representative Dan Ortiz

# Alaska Dispatch News

Published on *Alaska Dispatch News* (<http://www.adn.com>)

[Home](#) > [Did Alaska Fish Board appointee really discover an endangered species?](#)

[Craig Medred](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

February 4, 2015

Kenai Peninsula fisherman Roland Maw, Alaska Gov. Bill Walker's controversial appointee to the Alaska Board of Fisheries <sup>[2]</sup>, claims in his resume to have been responsible for a significant scientific achievement, the first identification of a new, endangered species in North America.

In a sworn 2013 affidavit setting out his bona fides as an authority on Alaska fisheries, Maw wrote that he was the "coauthor of 'Fishing Canada's Mountain Parks,' 1985 ... (which has) received numerous public awards for the first scientific description and naming of 'Bull Trout' as a new species of char/trout."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorities, however, say the bull trout, a close cousin of the Dolly Varden char, was first identified by Ted Cavender of The Ohio State University Museum of Zoology in 1978 and officially recognized as a new species by the American Fisheries Society in 1980.

And Maw's thesis adviser at the University of Alberta, the primary author of "Fishing Canada's Mountain Parks <sup>[3]</sup>," said Maw's claim of a new scientific discovery is untrue. Professor emeritus James Butler said his book never won any awards.

"I never heard that," Butler said. "He (Maw) certainly didn't name that. I'm not sure that he's been accurately quoted. ...I know he cared deeply about bull trout, but he didn't name it."

Told that Maw's claim came from a sworn affidavit signed by Maw, Butler didn't know what to say. Biologists at the University of Alberta did sometimes ask for Maw's help in identifying char and salmon, because Maw was at the time working summers in Alaska as a commercial fisherman and was good at field identification, Butler said. But Maw wasn't directly involved in bull trout research.

Maw was a professor at an Alberta community college working on a study of public attitudes and perceptions of grizzly bears in Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park, Butler said.

Maw's bull trout claim, if true, would represent a major scientific coup. The bull trout is an endangered species <sup>[4]</sup> across its range in North America.

Asked about the claim to identification of the bull trout in a phone interview, Maw tried to deny it. He said he only accepted that others had credited him with the discovery.

"That comes from a book I published," Maw said. "The American Fisheries Society quotes it as the original description (of bull trout). ... I was just going off some references in the Journal of Fisheries Science. They quoted it in there as the reference."

Maw was unable to direct Alaska Dispatch News to any such reference, however, and an independent search could find none. A 2009 [report](#) [5] from the Alberta Fish & Wildlife Division updating the "[Status of Bull Trout in Alberta](#) [5]" contains a section on "literature cited" that lists more than 150 bull trout studies and reports dating back to 1978.

There is no reference for Maw or Butler or "Fishing Canada's Mountain Parks." There is a reference to "Cavender, T.M." for his "Taxonomy and distribution of bull trout" in 1978.

Cavender's research "was published in a California Department of Fish and Game publication and has been referenced in many different documents" since then, U.S. Fish and Wildlife spokesman Leith Edgar of Idaho said in an email to Alaska Dispatch News. [Fish and Wildlife work on bull trout](#) [6], a threatened species, is centered in Idaho.

Maw said he'd never heard of Cavender and was skeptical that the scientist had found the same bull trout in Northern California that is found in Alberta.

"He may have described it," Maw said, "but 'bull trout' is a common name.

"That far south, knowing something about bull trout, that could be an entirely different species. ... Did I or Jim (Butler) check with someone in California? I didn't check with anyone in California. I don't know what they're calling a bull trout down there."

Maw suggested Cavender might have identified, and the Fisheries Society might have classified, a subspecies of bull trout, *Salvelinus confluentus*. There are no known subspecies.

"I don't know where you are going with this," Maw said.

Reminded that he had sworn under oath that he and Butler were credited with "numerous public awards for the first scientific description and naming of 'Bull Trout' a new species of char/trout," Maw said, "That's in the affidavit? I signed it? I'd have to look and see exactly what that wording is."

Alaska Dispatch News offered to send him an electronic copy of the document so he could review it before commenting further. Maw said that was impossible.

"I'm flying tomorrow," he said. "So it won't be tomorrow."

"The only email I have is my wife's email."

Sending the document to his phone, he said, was out of the question because "I'm on a flip phone."

Maw did say he would research the issue further and get back to Alaska Dispatch News.

He was unable to remember if he researched the history of bull trout in North America before swearing to the claim the Alberta fishing guide he co-authored revealed the first scientific description of a new species. He also said he didn't know why he put the claim in his sworn court affidavit.

"I don't know. I'd have to go back and look at my notes on that," he said.

But he was sticking to his guns on the assertion that it might remain possible he found a new species.

"I would strongly suspect the fish in California are not the same as the ones in Alberta," Maws said. "I do not understand why Jim would say that (claim was wrong). We looked at lots and lots of fish. We were struggling with "Is this really, really different than a Dolly Varden?" "

By 1980, however, it had already been established that the bull trout was different from the Dolly, and the taxonomic standards for identification had been certified.

**Source URL:** <http://www.adn.com/article/20150204/did-alaska-fish-board-appointee-really-discover-endangered-species>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.adn.com/authors/677842>

[2] <http://www.adn.com/article/20150120/fish-board-chairman-johnstone-resigns-commercial-fisherman-maw-picked-replace-him>

[3] [http://library.alibris.com/booksearch.detail?](http://library.alibris.com/booksearch.detail?invid=11155565270&browse=1&qwork=2349295&mtype=B&qsort=&page=1)

[invid=11155565270&browse=1&qwork=2349295&mtype=B&qsort=&page=1](http://library.alibris.com/booksearch.detail?invid=11155565270&browse=1&qwork=2349295&mtype=B&qsort=&page=1)

[4] <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=E065>

[5] [http://www.ab-conservation.com/go/default/assets/File/Programs/AWSR/Reptile%20Amphibian%20and%20Fish%20Reports/Status%20of%20Bull%20Trout%20in%20Alberta\\_update%202009.pdf](http://www.ab-conservation.com/go/default/assets/File/Programs/AWSR/Reptile%20Amphibian%20and%20Fish%20Reports/Status%20of%20Bull%20Trout%20in%20Alberta_update%202009.pdf)

[6] <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/>

**Oren Brown**

---

**From:** Simeon Daigle <simeon\_daigle@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 11:18 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Alaska Board of Fisheries appointee, Roland Maw

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Honorable Alaska Senator Bill Stoltze,

I would like to express my support of Governor Walker's appointee, Roland Maw, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I approve of Maw not only because he comes highly qualified in in biology and fisheries management, but also because he is well acquainted with the Cook Inlet management area, which as you well know has been an area of discord and fisheries politics for many years. Maw has served on the Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association, and has co-owned a Charter sports fishing operation. He also has been involved in numerous biological studies involving the fisheries and has a Doctorates Degree in his field. It is my belief the Dr. Roland Maw will bring Alaska Board of Fisheries appointee, Roland Ma balance to the Alaska Board of Fisheries with his vast experience not only with commercial fisheries, but also with the sport industry as well. Governor Walker has indicated that it is time to make science and biology the determinant in Alaska's fisheries management instead of politics. Dr. Maw if appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries would seek to make this a reality. The fish of Alaska should come first or order that we can have sustainable fisheries for generations to come. I sincerely thank you for your work in governing Alaska and making it a state worth living in. I hope that you will support the Governor's nomination of Dr. Roland Maw and the heath of Alaska's fisheries by confirming him to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely and Respectfully,  
Simeon Daigle

A life-long Commercial Fisherman

Honorable Alaska Senator Cathy Giessel,

I would like to express my support of Governor Walker's appointee, Roland Maw, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I approve of Maw not only because he comes highly qualified in in biology and fisheries management, but also because he is well acquainted with the Cook Inlet management area, which as you well know has been an area of discord and fisheries politics for many years. Maw has served on the Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association, and has co-owned a Charter sports fishing operation. He also has been involved in numerous biological studies involving the fisheries and has a Doctorates Degree in his field. It is my belief the Dr. Roland Maw will bring balance to the Alaska Board of Fisheries with his vast experience not only with commercial fisheries, but also with the sport industry as well. Governor Walker has indicated that it is time to make science and biology the determinant in Alaska's fisheries management instead of politics. Dr. Maw if appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries would seek to make this a reality. The fish of Alaska should come first or order that we can have sustainable fisheries for generations to come. I sincerely thank you for your work in governing Alaska and making it a state worth living in. I hope that you will support the Governor's nomination of Dr. Roland Maw and the heath of Alaska's fisheries by confirming him to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely and Respectfully,  
Simeon Daigle

A life-long Commercial Fisherman

**Oren Brown**

---

**From:** Gary <glh@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 10:06 AM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Tammie Wilson  
**Subject:** Roland Maw support to the Ak BOF  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear State of Alaska Legislators,

I am writing to show my support for Governor Walker's appointment of Roland Maw to the Alaska Board of Fish. I have been attending BOF meetings for four decades. It has been a very long time since a potential appointee with Dr Maw's qualifications has had a chance to serve the people of the State of Alaska. I have known Roland Maw for sometime, we don't always agree, yet he is always approachable and willing to listen to all sides of the issue. He would be a welcome addition to the BOF. Please confirm Roland Maw to the Board of Fish.

Thank you,

Gary L. Hollier

Kenai, Ak.

**Oren Brown**

---

**From:** william faulkner <fallscreekkennels@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 8:08 AM  
**To:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Adam Wool  
**Subject:** Dr. Roland Maw - BOF confirmation  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear stewards and protectors of our public resources,

I wish to express my support for Dr. Roland Maw's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As a resident of the Kenai Peninsula I, as most of our residents, have grown weary from the endless fish wars, political mismanagement of our fisheries, and disregard for our local culture and quality of life. While I realize the right of all Alaskans to participate in the harvest of our local resources, this right does not come without sustainable limits, proper habitat protection, and some measure of protection for our own historical culture. I believe Dr. Maw would bring balance to the board that has been absent for many years. Dr. Maw is a resident of the Kenai, an attribute sorely missing from the present board. Dr. Maw possesses scientific credentials that soar above any present and most former board members. I believe this glowing fact is the foundation of Governor Walker's wise appointment. Without credentials such as Dr. Maw's our fisheries are certainly doomed to follow in the path of so many failed attempts at resource management and habitat protection that line the shores of this great country. Resources and habitats whose demise was executed by greed and politics. Our fishery resources are not a political bargaining chip, they are a very real responsibility that I pray you will take seriously. Your responsibility starts with confirmation of Dr. Roland Maw; be the change we all hope for.

Sincerely,  
William Faulkner  
PO Box 554  
Clam Gulch, AK  
99568

31-340  
R

**Oren Brown**

---

**From:** David Waltemyer <dlwaltemyer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 9:20 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Confirm Dr. Roland Maw to the Board of Fish

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Would appreciate your vote to confirm Dr. Roland Maw to the Board of Fish.

He has the background and experience and unbiased views to work in the position.

David Waltemyer

Soldotna, AK resident



February 16, 2015

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Giessel;

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit fishery conservation organization dedicated to the sustainability of fisheries on the Kenai and Alaska. The Governor recently appointed Roland Maw to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). KRSA strongly opposes this appointment and urge you to reject this nomination to the BOF.

The BOF sets policy for the state's subsistence, personal use, sport and commercial fisheries. Since the Hickel administration in the early 1990s, the BOF has had a balanced representation of three commercial fishing interests, three sport / PU interests and a subsistence interest (3-3-1 approach). A balanced board allows the various fishing sectors to have a voice on the board, but not a controlling interest.

With the appointment of Mr. Maw, a staunch backer of commercial fishing interests in Cook Inlet and Alaska, the 3-3-1 balanced approach with no controlling interest by any one sector has been abandoned. The BOF has now shifted to an unbalanced situation (4-2-1) of four commercial fishing interests, two sport / PU interests, and one subsistence interest. When it takes only four votes to enact or change fishery regulations, commercial fishing interests have the ability to control the BOF process without input or potential regard for other user groups. We do not support this unbalanced approach and ask for your support in preventing this situation from becoming the new standard for BOF members.

There are also disturbing issues that question the appointee's ability to work with others towards fair and balanced solutions to the complexities of fishery conservation and the at times contentious allocations between user groups. Mr. Maw has a track record of filing state and federal lawsuits against fishery regulatory boards and management agencies, the very groups a member of the board of fisheries is supposed to work in conjunction with to set Alaska fisheries policies. Through BOF proposals, frivolous ethics complaints, and public relations efforts, he also has cast unsubstantiated dispersions against other user groups in Cook Inlet. Through legal challenges that sought to impose national standards for fishing (Magnuson-Stevens Act national standard 4 precludes resident-only fisheries) on state fishery regulations, he has fought to negate the state's ability to prosecute resident-only subsistence and personal use fisheries. Such efforts would radically displace many Alaskan residents from essential fisheries across the state.

From unbalancing the board to his track record of one-sidedness, it is difficult to see how Mr. Maw's appointment will inspire confidence that the BOF process is fair and balanced to all interested parties. KRSA urges you to support a fair and balanced approach (3-3-1) to appointments to the BOF. We respectfully ask that you vote no on the appointment of Mr. Maw to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Ricky Gease, KRSA Executive Director

## Orville Huntington

Orville Huntington was born in Huslia, Alaska and received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Mr. Huntington is dedicated to working closely with young people to promote the values of traditional Native elders combined with contemporary western knowledge. He is committed to protecting the aboriginal rights of Native people to continue to live a subsistence way of life and preserve the cultural beliefs associated with that way of life as it is consistent with State and Federal law. His primary responsibilities continue to be the preservation of Native subsistence hunting, fishing, gathering and trapping opportunities and the cultural events that surround those beliefs, and as a public servant for the village of Huslia and the 43 villages of the Tanana Chiefs Conference region.

Mr. Huntington currently works as the Wildlife and Parks Director for the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Prior to that, he served for 14 years as a Refuge Information Technician at the Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR Complex and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a scientist he worked closely with local village people in the villages of Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena, Ruby, Huslia and Hughes on subsistence surveys.

### Previous employment:

- Seasonal labor, Bureau of Land Management (Emergency Fire Fighter)
- Fisherman
- Laborer's and Carpenter's Union
- Huslia Tribal Council (Tribal Operations Specialist)
- Tribal and City Council member

### Affiliations:

- Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors (interior village representative)
- K'oyitl'ots'ina Ltd. Board of Directors (Treasurer) for the villages of Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket and Alatna
- Brooks Range Contracting Board of Directors
- Koyukuk Moose Hunter's Working Group
- Interior Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees
- Alaska Native Science Commission Board of Commissioners



**Alaska Trollers Association**

130 Seward #205  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-9400 phone  
(907) 586-4473 fax  
ata@gci.net

March 31, 2015

Representative Ben Nageak, Chair  
House Resources  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Nageak and Committee Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association supports the reappointment of Orville Huntington to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board).

Mr. Huntington brings to the Board process a wealth of personal and professional knowledge. As a resident of the rural community of Huslia, he knows well the importance of every type of harvest, from subsistence to commercial.

In his first term on the Board, Orville had an opportunity to learn and make decisions about diverse fisheries from across the state - no easy task! During the Southeast meeting we found him to be attentive to the needs of both the resource and the public and a thoughtful decision-maker. We look forward to working with him in future years.

ATA believes that Mr. Huntington is doing a fine job on the Board of Fisheries and is the type of individual that the state should encourage to serve in this important forum. We urge you to confirm Orville Huntington.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Kelley".

Executive Director

My name is Todd Smith. I am a life-long peninsula resident and avid fisherman - both sport, personal use, and commercial. I would like to voice my support for **both** Board of Fish appointees before you today.

At the board meetings I have attended, Mr. Huntington has been open and honest – willing to listen to all sides, and not afraid to speak to what he feels is right and fair. His perspective, openness, fairness, and knowledge of statewide fisheries are an asset to all Alaskans, and he represents our best interests well. I encourage you to confirm his continued service on the Board of Fish.

As a fisherman and Peninsula resident active in my community, I have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ruffner and have followed his work. He is level-headed, honest, fair, and willing to listen to everyone's point of view. His own point of view carries with it a scientific perspective, and this would be a valuable asset to the board. He is a creative problem solver, has broad fisheries knowledge and has been supportive of and worked with ALL fish user groups and many different organizations – likely why he has broad statewide support from a diversity of interests.

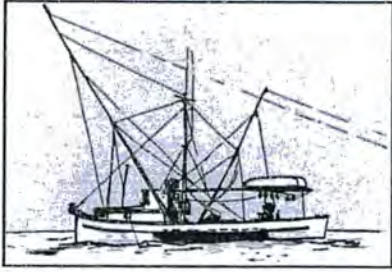
Through his actions, Mr. Ruffner has demonstrated that he values the best interest of ALL Alaskans equally. He has taken on tough issues affecting our fish and habitat, and worked towards creative solutions which have helped increase fish production for everyone while improving the user experience for all people, no matter where they may live or what fishery they choose to participate in. I am confident that as a board member Mr. Ruffner would continue to work with all user groups fairly, would advocate for solutions that benefit everyone, and, in keeping with Alaska law, would hold our pristine habitat in the highest regard, understanding that it is an essential base for the productive fish runs that we all value and enjoy.

Mr. Huntington and Mr. Ruffner will be a benefit to all of us, regardless of our fishery of choice or what community we call home. I encourage you vote to confirm them both and to lean on your fellow legislators to do the same.

Thank you,

Todd Smith

Kenai  

**Alaska Trollers Association**

130 Seward #205  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-9400 phone  
(907) 586-4473 fax  
ata@gci.net

April 8, 2015

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

Dear Senator Bill Stolze and Committee Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association supports the confirmation of Orville Huntington's re-appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board).

Mr. Huntington brings to the Board process a wealth of personal and professional knowledge. As a resident of the rural community of Huslia, he knows well the importance of every type of harvest, from subsistence to commercial. His biological background has noticeably guided his decision process.

In his first term on the Board, Orville had an opportunity to learn and make decisions about diverse fisheries from across the state - no easy task! During the Southeast meeting we found him to be attentive to the needs of both the resource and the public and a thoughtful decision-maker. He is obviously a quiet man, but he carefully adhered to his duties as a board member and worked to build the record of decision. When he had something to say, it was meaningful. We look forward to working with him in future years.

ATA believes that Mr. Huntington is doing a fine job on the Board of Fisheries and is the type of individual that the state should encourage to serve in this important forum. We urge you to vote to confirm Orville Huntington.

Best Regards,

Executive Director

February 20, 2015

Office of Boards and Commissions  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 1700  
Anchorage AK 99501  
Attn: Karen Gillis

Governor Bill Walker,

I am writing to apply for a seat on the Alaska Board of Fish. Please see my attached resume.

My wife and I moved to Alaska in 1996, after having the opportunity to spend a summer in Sitka a few years earlier while still in college. However, my first exposure to Alaska fish was early in grade school when my Uncle Bob sent a couple unlabeled gold cans of homepack for me to share with my young classmates. It was a few years later that I was able to visit him and first experience salmon fishing from his troller. Later as a young adult I was fortunate to have a summer in Sitka where, like most of us who first experience spawning salmon in small streams, I watched in awe of what these creatures do at the end of their life cycle. Something that I now share with my own two daughters.

When the opportunity arose for us to move to Soldotna in 1996, we came here without any hesitation. I found myself a job as the first employee for a newly forming organization that wanted to work with all user groups, businesses and "stakeholders" to work together for the health of our rivers and streams. I helped found and grow the Kenai Watershed Forum from an idea into a multi-million dollar organization, maintaining support from all branches of local government and achieving results in unexpected ways with all user groups coming together for the betterment of the waters on the Kenai Peninsula. This collaborative approach to conservation work is a skill that I've honed and one that I will bring to the Board of Fish. I hold no illusions that my participation will reduce the user group conflicts, but having worked with many stakeholders for years, I do believe I am in a unique position to make a positive contribution to Alaska. I know how to work in this environment and reach solutions.

While the past few years my job has become increasingly managerial in nature, I am trained as a scientist with a good core mathematical and statistical background. When questions arise around data collection and confidence in datasets, I expect I will know what questions to ask and will seek to get the best scientific information on the table to help inform my decisions. To the extent possible I will always draw on the best science to make those tough votes.

**Board members have a tremendous responsibility to the public and make decisions that can have serious economic, social and cultural implications. I understand this responsibility and can assure everyone considering my application that I will take this job seriously and above all else I will be fair and transparent in deliberations and in my role as a decision maker.**

**My promise to the governor and legislature is that I will listen to the public and I will work my tail off to make sure that I am making decisions in the best interest of Alaskans.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert Ruffner', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Robert Ruffner**

## **Robert Ruffner**

### **Current Employer - Kenai Watershed Forum**

#### **Professional Work Experience**

- 1996 – Present: Kenai Watershed Forum, Executive Director
  - Managed up to \$3M budget and supervised 14 employees
- 1994 – 1996: University of Minnesota, Research and Teaching Assistant
- 1990 – 1994: University of Minnesota, Limnology Lab technician

#### **Education**

- B.S. University of MN Geology 1994
- Post graduate course work, 2 years University of MN Geology/ Civil Engineering
- Specific course work in Geomorphology, Engineering, Numerical Modeling including finite element, finite difference, cellular automata methods
- Developed methods for modeling complex sediment transport for Hibbing Taconite Inc. and the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park

#### **Board/ Commission Experience**

- Soldotna Chamber of Commerce 2010 – present
- Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission 2010 – present
- Kenai Peninsula Borough Road Commission 2012 – present
- North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Advisory panel 2014 - present

#### **Relevant Experience**

- Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinator 2009 – Present
  - Nationally recognized partnership, sets habitat priorities and recommends funding to the USFWS
- Fish Habitat Restoration
  - Designed and directly supervised dozens of fish passage projects totaling several millions of dollars
  - Co-designed and directly supervised a major Anchor River restoration of a captured gravel pit
- Stream Buffer Evaluation – Tongass National Forest 1993
- Scientific Studies
  - Identified hydrocarbon pollution levels in the Kenai River; developed predictive models for a solution and provided education leading to those solutions being implemented for the Kenai River - 2000 through 2008
  - Supervised fish passage evaluations of anadromous stream crossings on the Kenai Peninsula
  - Identified and documented juvenile salmonids for inclusion in the Anadromous Waters Catalog

### Alaska Fishing Experience

- Sport fishing every year present in the State, wide range of experience from kayak fishing in Southeast Alaska to North Slope streams, including fin fish and shell fish
- Personal Use dipnetting – Kenai River every year since 1998
- Personal Use Gillnet – Kasilof River 1 season
- 2-days as a crew member on Cook Inlet Drift boat

### Awards

- 2004 Coastal America Partnership Award (Silver Salmon Creek Restoration)
- 2007 National Wetlands Conservation Award To the Private Sector (award to Kenai Watershed Forum)
- 2008 National River Hero Award – River Network
- 2008 Person of the Year – Soldotna Chamber of Commerce

**General Information**

Board/Commission and seat you are seeking:

Fisheries, Public Seat

Additional Boards/Commissions of interest:

None

State Boards/Commissions on which you have served:

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission - Advisory Panel

First Name

Robert

Middle Name

Austin

Last Name

Ruffner

Mailing Address

City

Soldotna

State & Zip

AK 99669

Home/Message Phone

Business Phone

Cell Phone

**Conflict of Interest**

Certain boards and commissions require full disclosure of personal financial data under AS39.50.010. If required for the board or commission for which you are applying, are you willing to do so?

Yes

Could you or any member of you family be affected financially by decisions to be made by the board or commission for which you are applying?

Yes

Please explain the potential financial benefit

No

**Employment History**

Employment work history including paid, unpaid, or voluntary.

Please see attached cover letter and resume

**Education, Training, Experience & Qualifications**

List both formal and informal education and training experiences:

Please see attached cover letter and resume

List any professional licenses, certifications, or registrations and dates obtained that may be used as qualifying criteria:

Please see attached cover letter and resume

List any community service, municipal government, and state positions held, and any awards received.

Please see attached cover letter and resume

**Conviction Record**

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor within the past five years or a felony within the past ten years?

No

Conviction Circumstances

**Certification of Accuracy & Completeness**

By submitting this online application, I swear the information I have entered on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I deliberately conceal or enter false information on the form my application may be rejected, I may be removed from the list of eligible candidates, or I may be removed from the position. I agree that the Office of the Governor may contact present or former employees or other persons who know me to obtain an additional information about my skills and abilities. I understand that the information on this application is public information and may be released through a legal request for such information.

Type "I certify"

"I certify"

Resume Addendum:

### **Press Release Wording**

Robert Ruffner, 46 of Soldotna is the Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum. Ruffner holds a degree in Geology from the University of Minnesota and has been working with all fishery user groups in Cook Inlet for since 1996.

Submitted: 2/20/2015 12:00:00 AM

**CITY OF SEWARD**  
P.O. BOX 167  
SEWARD, ALASKA 99664-0167



- Main Office (907) 224-4050
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3138
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- City Clerk (907) 224-4046
- Community Development (907) 224-4049
- Utilities (907) 224-4050
- Fax (907) 224-4038

March 27, 2015

Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel  
Members of the Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Senate

Dear Honorable Chair Giessel and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Seward City Council I would like to ask your support in confirming Robert Ruffner's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Our community has had the opportunity to work with and get to know Mr. Ruffner over several years with the Kenai Watershed Forum. The focus of his work has been habitat improvement and reclamation, particularly for anadromous fish streams. He and the Forum have also been an extremely valuable resource for our local Flood Service Area Board as they consider and implement flood mitigation strategies, again calling upon his expertise in habitat for salmon streams.

We've learned from this experience that Mr. Ruffner's first concern is for the overall good of the resource. We believe that concern will serve the Board well as it considers the issues before it, and that Mr. Ruffner will help the Board fulfill the responsibility to manage the resource for the benefit of the all the people of the State, and not to benefit any particular user group at the expense of another.

We believe the ability to work productively within a group of people with different objectives that they are passionate about would be of great value to any board, and the people of Alaska would be well served by having Mr. Ruffner's ability utilized at the Board of Fisheries. We've witnessed that ability in our own back yard. Several years ago a disastrous flood left many structures damaged, residents displaced, and no sign of help on the horizon. At a town hall meeting with over a hundred attending, emotions ran high, and opinions were all across the board. Mr. Ruffner moderated the meeting with a calming hand, and in the end brought out the key points needed for a solution satisfactory to the great majority. That's a rare ability, and one that should be welcome at the Board.

We urge you to confirm Robert Ruffner's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Bardarson".

Jean Bardarson  
Mayor, City of Seward

Cc: Senator Peter Micciche, Representative Mike Chenault

# THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE

DRAFT



SPONSORS APPROVAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JSL", written over a horizontal line.

\* HONORING \*

\* ROBERT RUFFNER \*

The Twenty-ninth Alaska State Legislature is pleased to honor Robert Ruffner for years of exemplary leadership of the Kenai Watershed Forum.

In the early 1990s, a group of concerned Kenai residents started a nonprofit organization focused on providing unbiased information on the river; and discussing the use of the river's resources and health of the river. In 1997, this group became a formal organization and the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) was established. Robert Ruffner was hired as the first director and only employee.

Under Robert's leadership, the KWF established a fish restoration program and a peninsula-wide wetlands mapping assessment; developed a youth and adult education program; expanded the geological scope of the KWF; executed a large-scale culver assessment for adequate fish passage and the first systematic water quality collection program and baseline study in the Kenai River. Robert also organized the Kenai River Festival, an annual event that brings more than 5,000 people together to celebrate the Kenai River.

Robert has been recognized locally and nationally for river restoration accomplishments. In 2008, Robert was the recipient of the River Network's River Hero Award. He was recognized by the group for his many accomplishments and for developing an organization where all stakeholders in the watershed have a voice, for his emphasis on solid science and for recognizing the ties between ecological and economic health.

The Twenty-ninth Alaska State Legislature thanks and congratulates Robert Ruffner for his success in his efforts to educate, maintain, restore and protect the rivers of Kenai. He has maintained a healthy balance between a community that relies on the river for its economy and protecting the river's integrity.

MIKE CHENAULT  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
PRIME SPONSOR

KEVIN MEYER  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Date:

Cosponsors:

# THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE

DRAFT



SPONSORS APPROVAL:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

\* HONORING \*

\* CARL HOFFMAN \*

\* "FATHER OF ALASKAN BLUEGRASS" \*

Dubbed the "Father of Alaskan Bluegrass," Carl Hoffman's musical influence can be seen across the state. If you've ever enjoyed listening to bluegrass in your local Alaskan community, chances are that Hoffman's influence is present.

Hoffman started his bluegrass career as a promoter and professional musician in New Jersey. When a family member moved to Alaska, Hoffman decided he wanted to give the cold north a try. In 1966, Hoffman drove the 5,000 miles to spend his first summer north. He continued to summer in Alaska until he finally moved full-time in 1973. "Alaska has a way of capturing you and you're never the same," Hoffman said.

There was little bluegrass in Alaska in the pre-pipeline days, but there was a lot of work. Hoffman decided to import bluegrass and convinced his New Jersey band, the Pine Hill Ramblers, to move up to Alaska with him in 1973. The Pine Hill Ramblers quickly found work performing for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline construction camps, playing two shows a day—one at 5pm and one at 5am—so each shift could get a taste.

Famous for his work ethic, Hoffman worked full-time in construction, labored on his family homestead, played bluegrass, and raised four boys with his wife Alice. As a construction superintendent, Hoffman traveled across the state working on large projects, including the Mt. Robert's Tramway in Juneau.

Hoffman is known for his warmth, openness, and eagerness to play music, and his commitment and dedication to the bluegrass genre have inspired generations of Alaskan musicians.

In his own words, "You kinda feel like your life is complete when you're playing music."

The members of the Twenty-ninth Alaska Legislature are pleased to join the Alaska Folk Festival in honoring Carl Hoffman. May your G-runs ever ring true!

\_\_\_\_\_  
MIKE CHENAULT  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

\_\_\_\_\_  
KEVIN MEYER  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
REP. DAVID GUTTENBERG  
PRIME SPONSOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
SEN. JOHN COGHILL  
PRIME SPONSOR

Date:

Cosponsors:

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Kaaren Vaala

REPRESENTING:

Self

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Ruffner - Board of Fish

COMMITTEE:

S. Resources / House Fisheries / SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

I'm a sport fisher. I catch all my salmon, trout, halibut, ling, rock fish, etc. on a ~~rod~~ rod or in a dip net. Many of my friends from Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Girdwood, Chugach, Eagle River, and beyond all come to fish on the Kenai River. All of us who enjoy fishing on this river and use the Kenai River fishery to help feed our families have benefitted from Mr. Ruffner's 20+ years of work on the Kenai. For the benefit of all user groups, he's helped make sure the fish come back year after year. That's why I'm supportive of appointing Mr. Ruffner to the Board of Fish. Thank you

My name is Todd Smith. I am a life-long peninsula resident and avid fisherman - both sport, personal use, and commercial. I would like to voice my support for **both** Board of Fish appointees before you today.

At the board meetings I have attended, Mr. Huntington has been open and honest – willing to listen to all sides, and not afraid to speak to what he feels is right and fair. His perspective, openness, fairness, and knowledge of statewide fisheries are an asset to all Alaskans, and he represents our best interests well. I encourage you to confirm his continued service on the Board of Fish.

As a fisherman and Peninsula resident active in my community, I have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ruffner and have followed his work. He is level-headed, honest, fair, and willing to listen to everyone's point of view. His own point of view carries with it a scientific perspective, and this would be a valuable asset to the board. He is a creative problem solver, has broad fisheries knowledge and has been supportive of and worked with ALL fish user groups and many different organizations – likely why he has broad statewide support from a diversity of interests.

Through his actions, Mr. Ruffner has demonstrated that he values the best interest of ALL Alaskans equally. He has taken on tough issues affecting our fish and habitat, and worked towards creative solutions which have helped increase fish production for everyone while improving the user experience for all people, no matter where they may live or what fishery they choose to participate in. I am confident that as a board member Mr. Ruffner would continue to work with all user groups fairly, would advocate for solutions that benefit everyone, and, in keeping with Alaska law, would hold our pristine habitat in the highest regard, understanding that it is an essential base for the productive fish runs that we all value and enjoy.

Mr. Huntington and Mr. Ruffner will be a benefit to all of us, regardless of our fishery of choice or what community we call home. I encourage you vote to confirm them both and to lean on your fellow legislators to do the same.

Thank you,

Todd Smith

Kenai  


I am Ed Schmitt a retired surgeon living in Soldotna. I am also Chairman of KAFC. We are an inclusive group representing "Joe Fisherman", all people who fish on the Kenai peninsula wherever they may live. Our board is composed mainly of retired state or federal fisheries biologists. Our members are avid dipnetters, sportfishermen, and river ecologists. One of our members **Spencer DeVito who was the 'original' Professional Sportfishing Kenai River Fishing Guide, retired in 1980 and recipient of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Kenai River Pioneer Award;** just wrote to me:

**Dear Mr. Schmitt, I was very happy to learn that we finally have an exceptional candidate for the B of F in Robert Ruffner, As I highly support Robert's nomination.**

I personally am an avid fly fisher. I first visited the Kenai River in 1988 and got a fly rod world record salmon. I long for the day when the Kenai returns to producing world records of all species of salmon.

I get my reds from the personal use fishery and frequently have friends from Anchorage stay with me when they are down dip netting. I understand how important the Personal Use fishery is to Joe Fisherman. We need the best possible science to manage this river for all user groups.

A scientist is someone who uses impeccable logic to analyze the best available data. As a surgeon I had to strive to maintain that standard. When new data became available or if my results were not perfect, I had to modify my procedures accordingly. From a lifetime of training, I recognize and celebrate good practical scientists.

Robert Ruffner is an excellent scientist. His thorough, inclusive, and community centered work at the Kenai Watershed Forum demonstrates both his knowledge and understanding of all fishing issues on the Kenai Peninsula. Because of this, he is very well qualified to examine fish issues anywhere in the state. I don't think there could possibly be a better candidate for the board of Fish. If we want the best possible decisions made in an open and inclusive process, Robert is the best possible choice.

Governor Walker, I would like to encourage the inclusion of Robert Ruffner on the Board of Fish. He has an excellent reputation at the Watershed Forum for being knowledgeable about fishing issues, fairness in weighing options and working well with others.

Thank you.  
Marge Hays

Box 2876  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Governor Walker,

I'm writing in support of Mr. Dwight Kramer and Mr. Robert Riffner for a position on the Board of Fisheries (BOF). Both of these superb individuals will return an ethical reform and a science-based philosophy back to the BOF. In addition, they both have distinguished themselves locally, statewide and nationally with their unparalleled involvement with habitat restoration and resource protection across this great State.

There have never been more knowledgeable and acceptable candidates for this key BOF position. I cannot foresee how any legislator could object to either of their confirmations onto this valuable State Board. I sincerely believe these two fine professionals would serve your administration, the great people of this State and ultimately the resources itself in a very responsible and accountable manner. It is extremely crucial that the BOF have diverse, knowledgeable and ethical representatives from the South Central region on the BOF.

I personally endorse both these individuals for a seat on the BOF.

v/r,

Shaun Churilla-Eagle River

~~226-6588~~

I urge you to appoint Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Ruffner will represent no special interest group, instead he will consistently represent Alaska's fisheries resources. He can be counted upon to apply the best science available to the decision making process. In my opinion, he is the best candidate to apply in many years. As a longtime angler (which is my I live in Alaska) and a retired fisheries biologist, I am encouraged to see people of his calibre volunteer to serve on the Board.

Richard Marshall  
37186 Cannery Road  
Keni, Alaska 99611

Dear Mr. Schmitt, I was very happy to learn that we finally have an exceptional candidate for the B of F in Robert Ruffner. As the 'original' Professional Sportfishing Kenai River Fishing Guide, retired in 1980 and recipient of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Kenai River Pioneer Award; I highly support Robert's nomination. Spencer DeVito

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to support Robert Ruffner for the Board of Fish. Mr. Ruffner has the experience, knowledge, expertise, and interpersonal skills to be an excellent member of the Board of Fish. His knowledge and background concerning the Kenai River is especially important in light of the declining king salmon.

Please vote for Robert Ruffner to be on the Board of Fish.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,  
Bob McCard  
PO Box 591, Kasilof, AK, 99610

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Dear Governor Walker,

We are writing in reference to your upcoming appointment of two Board of Fisheries positions and would like to recommend Mr. Robert Ruffner for one of those positions.

It is extremely important to us that members of this board are well-qualified in order to make good decisions. The very future of our salmon and other aquatic life that coexist in the Kenai River and the entire Kenai Peninsula area are at stake.

Tough decisions will need to be made and that requires board members that are well-versed and have been actively involved in an effort to conserve their existence. As the founder and past executive director of the Soldotna-based Kenai Watershed Forum, Mr. Ruffner would meet those qualifications. He has supervised many projects that have benefitted habitat and conservation issues and it has been obvious that his primary interest is in habitat and conservation issues and not personal gain. His efforts have not favored sport, commercial, or personal-use fishing and that would give him a more unbiased approach to decision making.

We are sports fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula and we would like to encourage you to seriously consider Mr. Robert Ruffner for one of the two positions that are open on the Board of Fisheries. He lives on the Kenai Peninsula and his many years of experience have been on the Kenai Peninsula which would be invaluable in his decision making.

Regards,

Clifford and Sondra Hugg  
37091 Tiny Rd.  
Soldotna, AK 99669

907-260-5071

**KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**NAME:** Dan Paslucci

**REPRESENTING:** KWF/Self

**BILL # or SUBJECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITTEE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

I'm here about the Nomination of the Governor Conservation with a backhoe

The man that goes by Robert Ruffner he puts in his work

Who used to work for the Watershed always level headed

about which lots of stuffs been said he's never a jerk

I'm not here to defend the Watershed forum Some people <sup>fear</sup> ~~claim~~ he's a radical upstater

I was told " They're busy, please don't bore 'em " but I think he's a cool dipper

I'll just say there's no one better

work to bring all folks together I think he's the man that should join Board of Fish

even if his nomination is not quite tradish

rather fixing the culverts or cleaning the river

about a guy that can clearly deliver if you think he's one-sided, it just isn't true

he does the work that needs to get done for example, don't sit down and talk

and gather input from everyone directly to you

if you think he's special interest

I'd say it's true Thanks for your time and the work that you do

if by special interest please remember this rhyme and please push Robert

so mean he's got interest in you through

Oh and one more thing

Orville's good too

My Name is Lisa Gabriel.

I am a resident of the City of Kenai.

I have lived in the Kenai area for over 52 years. During that time, I have been a sportfisherman-personal use fisherman-and commercial fisherman. (All of which I still participate in today.)

I would like to express my support for Robert Ruffner's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Based on my personal experience in both the board process and with board members- I feel that Mr. Ruffner will bring a needed balance to the process-not based on his home address-but on his knowledge of fish and their habitat. I believe that Mr. Ruffner will be an asset to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for ALL areas of the State of Alaska and ask the members of this committee to support his confirmation.

LISA GABRIEL  
KENAI AK  
~~000 000 000~~

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Penny Vadla

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Robert Ruffner

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 4/8/15

I am a 38 year resident of Alaska. My husband and two children were born and raised in Alaska. We are an "outdoor" family who love the activities this great state has to offer.

I am a fisherwoman who has fished many areas in Alaska - currently host a trophy dolly varden.

Robert Ruffner works with youth, works <sup>on</sup> with conservation, <sup>e F Fo</sup> he cares and works hard for all Alaskans.

He is conscientious, dedicated, hardworking and unbiased. He is collaborative as well as creative and shows great understanding in the area of sound, scientific knowledge pertaining to fish and water habitat protection.

His efforts to create a healthy, sustainable habitat for our waters in the State of Alaska is remarkable. He does not show biases so he would be a more collaborative, cooperative, forward thinker on the Board. He will be a strong advocate not only for fish management but also for sustainable habitat and continued conservation work!

Robert Ruffner will advocate for the sustainability of the waters in ALL areas of this great state of Alaska.

Robert Ruffner has always "put fish first" through his conscientious demeanor!

Thank you,  
Penny Vadla

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Bob McCard <bmccard@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:18 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish

Dear Senator Stoltze:

I am writing to encourage you to vote for the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish . Mr. Ruffner excelled in his position as executive director of the Kenai Watershed Forum <http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/> . He worked effectively with people of widely different views, and consistently made protection of salmon and their habitat his first priority. He clearly has the scientific expertise and experience needed to ensure that Board decisions are based on science rather than politics.

Sincerely,

Robert A. McCard and Pamela Hays

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Donald witzel <witzdp@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 3:21 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Please confirm Robert Ruffner for Board of Fisheries

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Bill in Committee

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I am writing in support of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources.

Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Don Witzel  
975 N Richmond Ln  
Palmer, AK 99645

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Jeff Fair <fairwinds@briloon.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2015 2:58 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Please confirm Robert Ruffner for Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze,

As a sport fisherman in Alaska for 20 years, and an outdoor writer and field biologist, I am writing in support of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources. Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fair  
PO Box 2947  
Palmer, AK 99645

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Jim Richardson <resecon@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** letter of support for Robert Ruffner

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

To: Senate Resources Committee

From: Jim Richardson

Re: support for appointment of Robert Ruffner to Board of Fisheries

Date 3/25/2015

Co-Chairs Geissel and Costello and Resources Committee members:

I would like to strongly support the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I am a property owner on the Kenai River, and was a board member and President for the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board for many years. I have participated in Board of Fisheries meetings for the past 30 years. I am also a fisheries economist, with experience at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (staff economist); Sea Grant at UAF (research faculty), and have managed and operated an economic consulting firm focusing on resource issues (ResourceEcon) for the past 25 years in Anchorage.

In my opinion, there is no more difficult job in Alaska than to be a member of the Board of Fisheries. Robert Ruffner brings many years of experience in evaluating use-related issues in Alaska's waterways, on the Kenai Peninsula and elsewhere. His expertise would be a welcome addition to the Board of Fisheries. It was largely Robert's work that helped the Kenai River overcome its water quality impaired designation from oil contamination caused by outboard engines by assisting the switch to 4-stroke engines.

As you know, we have been experiencing a collapse in the Chinook salmon resource in almost all waters of Alaska in the past several years. Rather than just having the perspective of user groups fighting over the remaining 'scraps' of the resource, Robert Ruffner brings the welcome perspective to help bring changes needed to assist resource recovery, something that no other (current) member brings to the Board. He is also a reasonable and thoughtful person, and will not make decisions just to appease one or another user group if that decision will result in damages to our waterways.

I believe Robert Ruffner's perspective and expertise will greatly assist the Board of Fisheries in their difficult job to first protect our fisheries resources, and I urge you to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely  
Jim Richardson  
1543 East 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

## Daniel George

---

**From:** JoeRay Skrha <joeray\_muse@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:27 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Confirmation for Robert Ruffner to BOF

Dear Sen. Stoltze,

My name is Joe Ray Skrha and I am an attorney in Kenai where I have lived and practiced law for the past 32 years. I was a Kenai River Drift Boat Guide from 1985 through 1994. Now I sport fish as much as my time allows.

I wish to encourage you to confirm Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Board Of Fish. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources.

The Kenai Watershed Forum has supported sport fishing interests of guides and private fishermen alike while encouraging children to learn the principals of conservation even before they learn how to cast. Robert has served at the Kenai Watershed Forum's executive director for the past 18 years.

Many years ago, Gov. Steven Cowper wanted to nominate me to the BOF but since I was a fishing guide (and lawyer) my nomination was dead in the water.

During the past 25 years, all I hear is we need non-biased people on the BOF that do not have a preordained agenda. Now with Roberts nomination, you have that person who comes with clean hands. Don't look this gift horse in the mouth. His is a quality individual that has my full support.

Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Joe Ray Skrha  
Attorney at Law

Law Office of Joe Ray Skrha  
230 Main Street Loop; Suite B  
Kenai, AK 99611 USA

907-283-7100 office  
907-283-8100 fax  
907-283-6100 residence  
907-398-1800 cell

[skrhalawoffice@alaska.net](mailto:skrhalawoffice@alaska.net)

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Lee Beaman <lebeau@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2015 5:11 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Please confirm Robert Ruffner for Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze,

As a sport fisherman in Alaska, I am writing in support of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources.

Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Lee Beaman  
PO Box 2328  
Palmer, AK 99645



120 N. Willow St. PO Box 586 Kenai, AK 99611  
907.929.0388  
[accrabak@earthlink.net](mailto:accrabak@earthlink.net)  
[www.aksalmonalliance.com](http://www.aksalmonalliance.com)

April 12, 2015

Senator Bill Stoltze  
Chair, State Affairs  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Endorsement of Robert Ruffner for appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze:

I am writing today on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Salmon Alliance to express our support for the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries. Several ASA Board Members have known Robert since he moved to Soldotna in 1996, almost twenty years ago and began the formation of the Kenai Watershed Forum

Robert is well-known for his leadership in the development of the Kenai Watershed Forum, a diverse group of residents that represent all user groups, businesses and "stakeholders" dedicated to working together for the health of our rivers and streams in Southcentral Alaska. As a tireless advocate, Robert developed and refined conflict resolution techniques while working on contentious issues related to water quality and land use on the Kenai Peninsula over the past several years. During that time, Robert a man of patient demeanor, repeatedly demonstrated his ability to defuse conflict and emotion on complex issues, and to distill out solutions that cut across competing interests. Robert focuses on his understanding of science while weighing economic and personal interests. Robert also treats all parties he works with in complex conversations with respect, regardless of their point of view. Robert has a keen intellect and his past successes demonstrate he does his research on complicated technical issues. He knows this is requisite to contribute to a fair and respectable two-way exchange important in any public regulatory process.

The ASA is confident that Robert will contribute well in the Board process, not just with the complex Cook Inlet issues, but with issues in regions throughout the State.

Sincerely,

Paul Dale  
President  
Alaska Salmon Alliance

**From:** Soldotna Chamber of Commerce <director=soldotnachamber.com@mail63.atf91.mcsv.net> on behalf of Soldotna Chamber of Commerce <director@soldotnachamber.com>  
**at:** Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:58 PM  
**Subject:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
Soldotna Chamber - Board of Fisheries Recommendation

[View this email in your browser](#)



**A Letter from the President of the Chamber**

Dear Alaska Legislator:

It is my pleasure to write a letter on behalf of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. **I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Robert Ruffner, to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries.**

I have had the pleasure of serving with Robert on the Chamber Board of Directors for the past 7 years. During that time, we have benefited greatly from Mr. Ruffner's education and broad knowledge base. I have also appreciated Mr. Ruffner's effectiveness in communication, collaboration and consensus building... all of which contribute to his qualifications for the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Ruffner has repeatedly proved himself to be effective at interfacing with various user groups, both as a Chamber Board member, and as Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum. While remaining very objective, he has a unique ability to foster open communication and find common ground. As President of the Chamber of Commerce Board, I have often relied on Mr. Ruffner's expertise on local issues, as well as board processes. I have always found Mr. Ruffner to be a worthy adversary when we landed on opposite sides of an issue, but I note he always acted with objectivity and respect, in debating the issues. Mr. Ruffner's scientific background will also serve him well with the many difficult decisions required of the Board of Fisheries members.

It is on behalf of the Soldotna Chamber Board of Directors, and without reservation, that I offer this letter of support for the confirmation of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries. I urge you to give careful and thoughtful consideration to his

nomination. The State of Alaska and its fisheries will be well served to have Mr. Ruffner on this board. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



**Ryan Kapp, Board President**  
**Soldotna Chamber Board of Directors**  
**(907) 262-6336**  
**ryan.kapp@edwardjones.com**

*Copyright © 2015 Soldotna Chamber of Commerce, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in to receive correspondence from the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce. You may unsubscribe at any time.

**Our mailing address is:**  
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce  
44790 Sterling Highway  
Soldotna, AK 99669

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)





Suggested by: City Council

**CITY OF KENAI**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-14**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT RUFFNER TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES.

WHEREAS, Alaska Governor Bill Walker has appointed Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature will consider the confirmation of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries during the 2015 Legislative Session; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai is an Alaskan Fishing Community; and,

WHEREAS, commercial fisheries, sport fisheries, personal use fisheries, subsistence fisheries and shore-based fish processing facilities take place and/or are located within the City of Kenai's Municipal boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries manage fishery resources and habitat for the benefit of all Alaskan's both present and future ; and,

WHEREAS, Robert Ruffner, during his eighteen year tenure as the Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum, has demonstrated exemplary leadership in building consensus among widely diverse user groups; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner's training as a scientist and statistician provide the basis for sound decision-making based on scientific analysis; and,

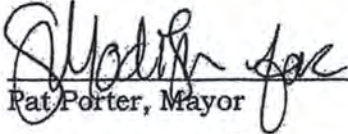
WHEREAS, he has been recognized by, and received awards from, the Coastal America Partnership and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service for his efforts and leadership in fish habitat restoration and protection; and,

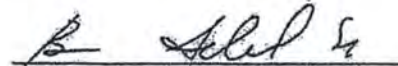
WHEREAS, his efforts in quantifying increased levels of hydrocarbons in the Kenai River, identifying measures to reduce hydrocarbon levels, and management of programs to reduce hydrocarbon levels, resulted in the Kenai River being removed from the Environmental Protection Agency's Listing of Impaired waterbodies; and,

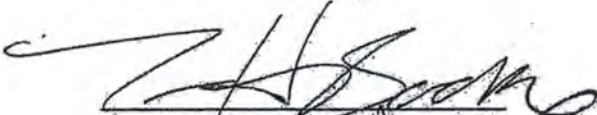
WHEREAS, the City of Kenai has worked closely with Mr. Ruffner and the Kenai Watershed Forum over the past eighteen years, finding him to be unbiased, possessing keen analytical skills, and committed to sound scientific based decision making which will well serve the State of Alaska and its citizens.

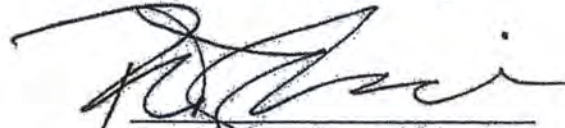
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the City Council supports the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

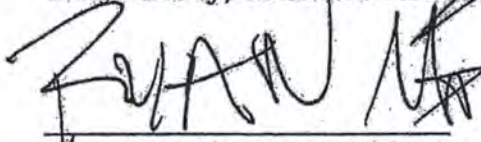
PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 1st day of April, 2015.

  
Pat Porter, Mayor

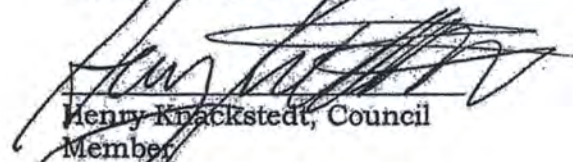
  
Brian Gabriel, Vice Mayor

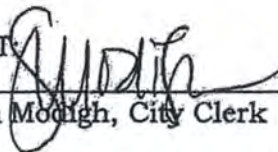
  
Terry Bookey, Council Member

  
Bob Molloy, Council Member

  
Ryan Marquis, Council Member

  
Tim Navarre, Council Member

  
Henry Knackstedt, Council Member

ATTEST   
Sandra Modigh, City Clerk

Introduced By: Sprague  
Date: March 25, 2015  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

CITY OF SOLDOTNA  
RESOLUTION 2015-019

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONFIRMATION OF ROBERT RUFFNER'S  
APPOINTMENT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

---

WHEREAS, Robert Ruffner has a long record of habitat advocacy for Kenai Peninsula rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner has for many years been director of the Soldotna-based Kenai Watershed Forum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner has resided on the Kenai Peninsula for the past 19 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner has demonstrated his good judgement and ability to work with people in:

- 18 years of service as executive director of the Kenai Watershed Forum,
- four-and-a-half years of service on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission,
- three-and-a-half years of service on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Roads Service Area board,
- membership in the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce, where he is Chairman of the Finance Committee, and
- his recent appointment to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission; and; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Mr. Ruffner would provide diversity of interest and points of view in the board of fisheries membership (per Alaska statute 16.05.221); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner is held in high esteem by commercial and sportfish user groups; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner is a dipnetter and therefore is knowledgeable about dipnet issues; and

WHEREAS Mr. Ruffner has a bachelor's degree in geology and years of experience working with biology;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Soldotna City Council thanks Governor Walker for appointing Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Section 2. That The Soldotna City Council respectfully asks the Alaska State Legislature to support the confirmation of Mr. Ruffner as a member of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

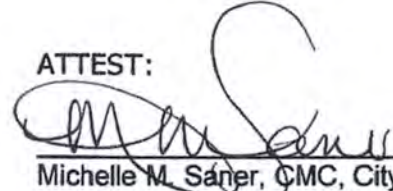
Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Senate President Kevin Meyer, Speaker of the House Mike Chenault, and all members of the Alaska State Legislature.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nels Anderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle M. Sáner, CMC, City Clerk

Ayes: Baxter, Whitney, Daniels, Bos, Sprague  
Noes: None  
Absent: Murphy



- Main Office (907) 224-4050
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3138
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- City Clerk (907) 224-4046
- Community Development (907) 224-4049
- Utilities (907) 224-4050
- Fax (907) 224-4038

March 27, 2015

Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel  
Members of the Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Senate

Dear Honorable Chair Giessel and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Seward City Council I would like to ask your support in confirming Robert Ruffner's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Our community has had the opportunity to work with and get to know Mr. Ruffner over several years with the Kenai Watershed Forum. The focus of his work has been habitat improvement and reclamation, particularly for anadromous fish streams. He and the Forum have also been an extremely valuable resource for our local Flood Service Area Board as they consider and implement flood mitigation strategies, again calling upon his expertise in habitat for salmon streams.

We've learned from this experience that Mr. Ruffner's first concern is for the overall good of the resource. We believe that concern will serve the Board well as it considers the issues before it, and that Mr. Ruffner will help the Board fulfill the responsibility to manage the resource for the benefit of all the people of the State, and not to benefit any particular user group at the expense of another.

We believe the ability to work productively within a group of people with different objectives that they are passionate about would be of great value to any board, and the people of Alaska would be well served by having Mr. Ruffner's ability utilized at the Board of Fisheries. We've witnessed that ability in our own back yard. Several years ago a disastrous flood left many structures damaged, residents displaced, and no sign of help on the horizon. At a town hall meeting with over a hundred attending, emotions ran high, and opinions were all across the board. Mr. Ruffner moderated the meeting with a calming hand, and in the end brought out the key points needed for a solution satisfactory to the great majority. That's a rare ability, and one that should be welcome at the Board.

We urge you to confirm Robert Ruffner's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Bardarson".

Jean Bardarson  
Mayor, City of Seward

Cc: Senator Peter Micciche, Representative Mike Chenault



KENAITZE  
INDIAN  
TRIBE

Alaska State Legislature  
All Members  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

March 30, 2015

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe strongly supports Robert Ruffner as a Board of Fisheries member. Mr. Ruffner is highly respected in our community for working with State, Federal, and local agencies as well as federally recognized tribes, such as the Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Tribal Government reorganized in 1971 under the statutes of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended for Alaska in 1936. The Tribe has established long term goals which enhance the health, social and economic well-being, cultural heritage, and governmental concerns of its people, and serves over 3,700 Alaska Native, American Indian and other people who reside in the central and upper Kenai Peninsula, including approximately 1,430 enrolled Kenaitze Tribal Members and 170 Salamatof Tribal Council (STC) Tribal Members. The service area includes the central Kenai Peninsula communities of Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatof, Cohoe, Cooper Landing and the surrounding area.

Mr. Ruffner's leadership and knowledge will serve the Board of Fisheries well.

Sincerely,

Jaylene Peterson-Nyren

Executive Director

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

WWW.KENAITZE.ORG

PHONE: (907) 335-7200 • FAX: (907) 335-7239

P.O. Box 988 • KENAI, AK 99611



April 7, 2015

Dear Alaska Legislators:

My name is Brad Elfers and I own Alaska Fly Fishing Goods, which is a full service fly fishing equipment shop and internet retailer, based in Juneau since 1998. I'm writing to express my support for Board of Fisheries nominee, Robert Ruffner.

As a sport angler and someone who's livelihood depends on sport fishing, I believe Robert will do an excellent job of representing my interests on the Board of Fisheries, however just as importantly, I believe Robert will be a strong advocate for the long-term health of fish and their habitat.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Ruffner and give him the opportunity to put his experience and expertise to work on the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you,

Brad Elfers  
Owner  
Alaska Fly Fishing Goods  
8465 Old Dairy Road, Ste. 101  
Juneau, AK. 99801  
(907) 586-1550

8465 Old Dairy Road | Suite. 101 | Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907-586-1550 | Fax: 907-586-3734 | Email: [brad@alaskaflyfishinggoods.com](mailto:brad@alaskaflyfishinggoods.com) | Website: [www.alaskaflyfishinggoods.com](http://www.alaskaflyfishinggoods.com)

April 10, 2015

Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska Senate  
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

(via member email addresses)

Subject: Robert A. Ruffner Confirmation -- Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear State Affairs Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Members:

I highly recommend Robert Ruffner to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. His education and ongoing experience is outstanding and directly applicable. As executive director, he developed the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) into a successful public service organization.

Additionally, Mr. Ruffner has represented Alaska on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) Advisory Panel. Also, he has gained valuable experience with complex public issues, while serving on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission and the Road Commission. He is a lifelong sport fisher.

I am a longtime resident and divide my time between Anchorage and Cooper Landing. I have known Mr. Ruffner's good work at the KWF since its founding in 1997. As one of the founders, I am very pleased to say that his accomplishments have been outstanding. After sustainable development and long tenure as executive director, he is looking for new challenges.

Mr. Ruffner is a capable, well-reasoned individual, who demonstrates a temperate demeanor and good judgement. He will be impartial when dealing with special interests, and strive for productive, science-based fisheries in the best interests of the public.

Please support confirmation of Robert Ruffner to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert L. (Bob) Baldwin, CEO  
c) 907.250.3913  
<kenailake@arctic.net>



120 N. Willow St. PO Box 586 Kenai, AK 99611  
907.929.0388  
[accrabak@earthlink.net](mailto:accrabak@earthlink.net)  
[www.aksalmonalliance.com](http://www.aksalmonalliance.com)

March 5, 2015

Karen Gillis, Director  
Boards and Commissions  
Office of the Governor  
Bill Walker  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
[Karen.Gillis@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Karen.Gillis@Alaska.Gov)

Re: Endorsement of Robert Ruffner for appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Karen:

I am writing today on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Salmon Alliance to express our support for the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries. Several ASA Board Members have known Robert since he moved to Soldotna in 1996, almost twenty years ago and began the formation of the Kenai Watershed Forum

Robert is well-known for his leadership in the development of the Kenai Watershed Forum, a diverse group of residents that represent all user groups, businesses and "stakeholders" dedicated to working together for the health of our rivers and streams in Southcentral Alaska. As a tireless advocate, Robert developed and refined conflict resolution techniques while working on contentious issues related to water quality and land use on the Kenai Peninsula over the past several years. During that time, Robert a man of patient demeanor, repeatedly demonstrated his ability to defuse conflict and emotion on complex issues, and to distill out solutions that cut across competing interests. Robert focuses on his understanding of science while weighing economic and personal interests. Robert also treats all parties he works with in complex conversations with respect, regardless of their point of view. Robert has a keen intellect and his past successes demonstrate he does his research on complicated technical issues. He knows this is requisite to contribute to a fair and respectable two-way exchange important in any public regulatory process.

The ASA is confident that Robert will contribute well in the Board process, not just with the complex Cook Inlet issues, but with issues in regions throughout the State.

Sincerely,

  
Arni Thomson  
Executive Director

# CHITINA DIPNETTER'S ASSOCIATION

POB 72665, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707



12 April, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

After multiple discussions between our board members and Mr. Ruffner we received written opinion regarding personal use fishing from Mr. Ruffner. Unfortunately, the opinions in his email and our discussions fall far short of the mark of what we would like to hear from him in regards to priority allocation.

While we appreciate him stating how much he values personal-use fishing, it is evident to us that he has yet to fully grasp the issues facing Alaskans in feeding their families via a dip net. Also, the scope of his knowledge on Alaska fish issues appears to be severely limited to the Kenai fishery.

**For these reasons alone, we respectfully rescind our support for Mr. Ruffner's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fish.**

We would prefer that the appointee to the BOF have a well-rounded understanding of all users.

If Mr. Ruffner believes that the reduction in the Chinook harvest on the Copper River fishery is "proportional to all user groups" he needs to fully investigate and comprehend the meaning of proportion as well as fairness. If the other user groups had the same proportion as dip netters, NO Chinook salmon would be harvested in that entire fishery, because in essence, that is what our proportion has been cut to--- ZERO.

Mr. Ruffner also asserts that the harvest allocation from which these proportional cuts are to be made begins with the premise that they are fair. They are not! Furthermore, his advocacy for equal sharing of "the burden of conservation" and his testimony to the Senate Resource Committee, specifically those comments on Senate Bill 42 (SB42), tell us, yet again, that he does not fully grasp the importance personal-use fishing has to Alaskans. To us, there is no higher use of our salmon resources than feeding Alaskans. The framers of our State Constitution realized this, and it is why they wrote Article 8 the way they did. Unfortunately, too many members of the Board of Fish, both past and present, fail to understand this basic tenet.

We need a board member who will put, as a priority, the use of Alaska resources to feed Alaska families.

Sincerely,

Chuck Derrick, President  
Chitina Dipnetter's Association,  
Fairbanks, AK  
[cderrickak@aol.com](mailto:cderrickak@aol.com)  
907-378-5527

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Dennis Gease <dennisgease@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**CC:** Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Subject:** South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association Opposes Confirmation of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze and honorable members of the Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee;

The South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association (SCADA) is writing to notify you that our board of directors has voted to oppose the confirmation of Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). The majority of SCADA members live in Anchorage and the Mat-Su. Our members have expressed concerns regarding Mr. Ruffner's confirmation to the BOF. Their primary complaint is that his most vocal supporters seem to be from the Cook Inlet commercial fishing community, many of whom have sought to downplay the importance of the personal use dipnet fishery in supplying food for Alaskan families and have actively worked to undermine our access and opportunities for harvest.

Last year 35,000 households in the South Central Alaska applied for Cook Inlet personal use dipnet permits. Instead of celebrating the fact that close to three million pounds of sockeye salmon made it to households far and wide across Alaska via the Kenai Peninsula dipnet fishery, it is often treated by scorn from opponents. Such harvests by Alaskan residents are portrayed as being out of control, wasteful, and a taking of "their" fish.

Beyond these concerns, it bothers us that we are looking at an unbalanced BOF that lacks the now traditional representation of three members from the sport and personal use fishing community. We feel such balance is very important to the BOF, especially in the Cook Inlet area, home to the state's largest personal use and sport fisheries. We find it ironic that a balanced board approach is viewed as somehow being broken and needs fixing.

Over the past decade the BOF has implemented the use of mandatory, weekly 24 and 36 hour window closures in the commercial set net fishery in order to allocate fish to the rivers for escapement and for harvest by Alaskan families. While the weekly window closures in the commercial fishery does not guarantee anyone fish, it is certainly better than the all too common alternative of past practices which saw up to 18 days straight of commercial openers authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) commercial fisheries managers. These back-to-back-to-back ad nauseam commercial openers dried up escapements of fish into the rivers that provided harvest by dipnetters and anglers.

Thus through our observation of his engagement in public forums and in the legislative confirmation process, we do not feel that Mr. Ruffner fully understands how salmon management plans are implemented in the Cook Inlet area and also for the Cooper River / Chitina dipnet fishery. The BOF is the primary body to allocate fish between different user groups and for escapements. The job of the ADF&G is not to allocate fish, but instead to implement management plans developed by the BOF that have allocative structure built in. As such, the details of salmon management plans are critical, especially in delivering fish for escapements and harvests by all groups. Too often in the past, though, we feel management decisions under the guise of "containing escapements" have been an excuse to provide unchecked harvests by commercial fisheries to the detriment of dipnetters and anglers. Unfortunately we do not trust that Mr. Ruffner understands that lesson.

In summary, SCADA feels that Mr. Ruffner should not be confirmed to the BOF. We urge you to Vote No during this week's upcoming joint session. Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter to us and the many Alaskan families who depend upon a healthy harvest of salmon.

Sincerely,

 Dan Federico  
Board Chair

Dennis Gease  
Board Vice-Chair



April 11, 2015

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

Dear Senator Stoltze and members of the State Affairs Committee,

***Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) urges Alaska State Legislators to vote No on the confirmation of Robert Ruffner to a seat on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.***

***Anchorage must have a strong voice on the Alaska Board of Fisheries; a balance of 3 commercial, 3 sport/personal use and 1 subsistence must be continued.***

***Ruffner's strongest and most vocal supporters are commercial fishing interests who have a long history of opposition to sport and personal use fisheries.***

***Ruffner should be thanked for his willingness to serve and appreciated for his efforts to conserve aquatic habitat but he is not the right choice to represent the interests Alaska's largest city and home to 40% of the state's population, and to represent the interests of the personal use and sport anglers statewide.***

Alaska's world-best salmon fisheries are a testament to the effectiveness of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) regulatory process. While cumbersome at times, the Board process provides an open and transparent process for addressing the ever evolving challenges of UCI salmon fishery management. To the Board rests the difficult responsibility of allocating the harvestable surplus and the burden of conservation among competing users. Allocation decisions can be particularly challenging in areas like

Cook Inlet due to the complexity of mixed species and stock fisheries and diverse values among a broad spectrum of users.

In this difficult process, Anchorage, home of 40% of the State's population, cannot be left without direct representation. Members of the Board are chosen by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view. Although not required by statute, geographic representation has been a hallmark of this process.

To assure fair representation of all fishery sectors, the balance of 3 commercial, 3 sport/personal use and 1 subsistence representatives, in place since the mid-1990s, must also be preserved. This appointment alters that balance and threatens a return to earlier times when commercial fishing interests dominated the Board process with little regard for personal use and sport anglers.

The lion's share of documentable public support for Mr. Ruffner has come from the commercial fishing community -- both statewide from representatives of the United Fishermen of Alaska and Icicle Seafoods and regionally from members of Cook Inlet's commercial drift and set gill net fleets. These organizations and individuals are very vocal in their support for severe reductions on salmon fishery allocation to sport and personal use fisheries in Cook Inlet and the personal use fishery at Chitina. Recent proposals submitted to the BOF, testimony to the Alaska Legislature and op-ed pieces in the Cook Inlet news media have advocated:

- Reduce the minimum escapement goal for Kenai River late-run king salmon so that commercial set net fishermen can harvest more sockeye salmon that move along the beaches at the same time.
- Do away with paired sport and commercial fishery restrictions which share the conservation burden for Kenai king salmon during this time of historic low numbers.

- Get rid of management “window” closures of the set net fishery that pass late-run king and sockeye salmon into Kenai and Kasilof river escapement personal use and sport fisheries.
- Reopen the “inside waters” of the Copper River flats to commercial fishing, ignoring the need to conserve Copper River king salmon to provide for escapement, subsistence, personal use and sport fisheries.
- Reduce the seasonal limit of sockeye salmon for Alaskan resident Personal Use fishermen in Cook Inlet and at Chitina by 50% so that more can be harvested by the commercial fisheries.
- Ban or severely reduce power boats for sport fishing.
- Prohibit catch and release as a sport fish management tool.
- Repeal the “One percent Rule” which is a science-based tool designed to meet management directives to minimize commercial harvest of coho salmon after sockeye have passed so that sport anglers can have a reasonable opportunity to harvest these fish.
- Opposed the establishment of a Cook Inlet conservation corridor for the drift gill net fleet developed to achieve minimum escapement goals for Susitna sockeye stock of concern and provide enough coho salmon for Mat-Su anglers to have a successful sport fishery.

These same interests who now support Mr. Ruffner have stated in testimony to the BOF that the highest value accruing from UCI salmon comes from maximizing the commercial harvest. They have denigrated the State’s Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, testified to the Legislature that the BOF process is broken and must be replaced, filed suit in Federal Court in an attempt to have UCI salmon fisheries managed under federal oversight and filed suit in State Court to have UCI commercial salmon fishing regulations overturned.

Mr. Ruffner, who lives in Soldotna, will be less accessible to residents of Anchorage than former Anchorage based representatives and will come under intense pressure from Kenai Peninsula commercial fishing interests who dominate local politics. He does not have a strong track record of public advocacy support for personal use and sport fisheries. In addition, his responses in public forums and to questions asked in the confirmation hearings appear to echo many positions commonly expressed by members of the Cook Inlet commercial fishing industry.

- That recent Board of Fishery actions in Upper Cook Inlet, including allocation decisions, are questionable and need to be redressed.
- That Cook Inlet commercial fishery managers need additional management flexibility to meet established escapement goals (e. g., avoid large sockeye escapements regardless of resulting impacts on other stocks and fisheries).
- That commercial fishery closure windows in Cook Inlet fisheries do not provide substantial benefits to in-river fisheries.
- That Kenai river sport fishing activities contribute to cumulative habitat impacts of humans (e.g., that may warrant substantial fishery restrictions even where there is no measurable biological impact).

It matters in the Board of Fisheries process where people are from and where their experience lies. If it didn't, Kenai Peninsula commercial fishing interests would not be fighting so hard for their local candidate. We urge you to vote no on the confirmation of Mr. Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

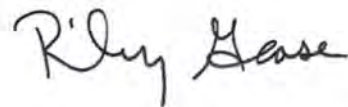
Respectfully,



Mark Hamilton  
Board Chair



Reuben Hanke  
Fisheries Chair



Ricky Gease  
Executive Director



Senator Bill Stoltze  
Senate State Affairs Committee, Chairman  
State Capitol Room 125  
Juneau AK, 99801

April 11, 15

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I am writing you to express Southeast Alaska Guides Organizations's (SEAGO) opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. SEAGO is the voice of Southeast Alaska charter fishing and lodge operations in Alaska and represent \$240 million in spending and over 2,240 jobs. Our mission is to promote the tradition of sport fishing in Southeast Alaska through reasonable regulations that ensure the long-term sustainability of our businesses and fish resources.

The current composition of 3 commercial, 3 sport and 1 subsistence users has served Alaska well. Through the hard work and effort of the board members, the Department of Fish and Game and the public, systems have been put in place to effectively manage the resource while protecting the rights of the disparate user groups who rely on sound management of the fishery.

This opposition isn't intended, in any way to, impugn Mr. Ruffner's character, his diligent work in habitat restoration or his willingness to serve the state. It is simply intended to make clear our concerns with this specific appointment.

It is our belief that the confirmation of Mr. Ruffner will upset that balance that has worked well for years. Although Mr. Ruffner claims to be a sport fish advocate he has offered opinions in committee and public forums that contradict this statement or, at the very least shows a lack of understanding of sport fish issues.

The letters of support for Mr. Ruffner, with few exceptions, have come from the commercial fishing community. Similarly, there seems to be little, if no support, for this nomination from the sport fishing and personal use sectors.

It is our concern that by confirming Mr. Ruffner, the well-established balance of the Board of Fish will be skewed to the commercial sector which would have a detrimental effect for sport and personal use fishing throughout the state as well have negative impacts on the economies of Alaska's coastal communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ryan Makinster  
Executive Director

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Howard Delo <hodelo@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 4:27 PM  
Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Representative\_Wes\_Keller@legis.state.ak.us; Representative\_Mark\_Neuman@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Cc:** Bruce Knowles; Kevin Delaney  
**Subject:** Board of Fisheries appointment confirmation vote  
**Attachments:** Sport anglers have good reason to be skeptical of Robert Ruffner.doc

Good Day to you all,

Thank you very much for all your hard work and time in dealing with Alaska's important issues, especially in these tough economic times. You still have an important issue coming up which will affect tens of thousands of Alaskans -- confirming Board of Fisheries nominees. Some of you know me -- my name is Howard Delo. I'm a former BOF member and I reside in Big Lake, within Rep. Mark Neuman's and Sen Charlie Huggins' respective districts. They can tell you more about me if you ask -- but only listen to the good stuff!

You are being asked to confirm a fine gentleman from Soldotna who looks good on paper -- just like Roland Maw did. I have never met Mr. Ruffner and what I hear about his background sounds good. The problem is his apparent lack of understanding in fisheries management practices in Cook Inlet. Based on statements he has made or agreed with in published sources and in committee interviews, Mr. Ruffner appears to support the commercial fishing sector on issues which, if altered from their current status, would prove to be destructive to the sports fishing industry, private anglers, and personal use fisheries folks all over Cook Inlet, and most especially, in the Northern District.

I have attached an opinion piece written by Kevin Delaney which has been submitted to the Alaska Dispatch News for publication in the very near future -- tomorrow (Sunday) hopefully! Mr. Delaney is retired from ADF&G and when he went out, he was Director of the Sport Fish Division. Kevin has a long history of management and research work in Cook Inlet prior to his move into the administrative arena of Fish and Game. I have known Kevin for over twenty years and greatly respect his knowledge and expertise in Cook Inlet fisheries management concerns.

Please take a look at what he has written and give it due consideration in your decision when voting on Mr. Ruffner. Feel free to share this with other legislators I haven't contacted.

Thank you,

Howard Delo  
[hodelo@mtaonline.net](mailto:hodelo@mtaonline.net)  
907-892-8796 msg.

## **Sport anglers have good reason to demand fair representation on the Board of Fisheries**

Governor Walker has nominated Robert Ruffner, Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) and a resident of Soldotna to fill a seat on the seven member Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). If Mr. Ruffner is confirmed by the legislature we will have one member from Kodiak, Dillingham, Huslia, Petersburg, Soldotna, Fairbanks and Talkeetna, but no representative from the area with the largest population in the state. Serious questions of this nominee are in order given the long dominance of Kenai fishery commercial interests and institutions in Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) salmon management, often at the expense of sport and personal use anglers in the rest of the Southcentral region.

I don't know Robert Ruffner personally but by all accounts he is a qualified candidate and his habitat protection work for the KWF is to be lauded. However, his fishery management experience is extremely limited so my opinion of his candidacy must be shaped from a review of his resume, personal communications with people I know and respect who also know Mr. Ruffner, his responses to questions at his confirmation hearings and from reading letters of recommendation and comments published in the media.

The last category, letters of recommendation and comments published in the media, gives good reason for sport anglers to be skeptical of this nomination. With a couple exceptions, the lion's share of documentable public support for Mr. Ruffner has come from the commercial fishing community -- both statewide from representatives of the United Fishermen of Alaska and Icicle Seafoods and regionally from members of Cook Inlet's commercial drift and set gill net fleets.

Since these organizations and individuals have been very vocal regarding management of UCI salmon fisheries, it has been a fairly easy task to collect the proposals these commercial interests have submitted to the BOF, the testimony they have given to the Alaska Legislature and the op-ed pieces of theirs that have been published in the Cook Inlet news media.

What follows is a partial list of proposals and positions that strong supporters of Mr. Ruffner have taken over the past eighteen months:

- Reduce the minimum escapement goal for Kenai River late-run king salmon from 15,000 down to 11,000 so that commercial set net fishermen can harvest more sockeye salmon that move along the beaches at the same time.
- Do away with a system of paired restrictions between ~~the sport fishery for~~ king salmon in the Kenai River and the set net fishery during this time of historic low numbers of king salmon.
- Get rid of management “window” closures of the set net fishery that allow late-run king and sockeye salmon to enter the Kenai and Kasilof rivers in an effort to achieve escapement goals and provide opportunity for personal use and sport fisheries.
- Reduce the seasonal limit of sockeye salmon for Alaskan resident Personal Use fishermen by 50% so that more can be harvested by the commercial fishery.
- Ban or severely reduce power boats for sport fishing.
- Prohibit catch and release as a sport fish management tool.
- Repeal the “One percent Rule” that prescribes the orderly transition between the commercial-oriented management for sockeyes to a sport-oriented management for coho, a science-based management tool that implements a 35 year old regulation directive for fishery managers to minimize the commercial harvest of coho salmon so that sport anglers can have a reasonable opportunity to harvest these fish.
- Opposed the development of a Cook Inlet conservation corridor through the use of time and area restrictions of the drift gill net fleet even though the objective of this conservation corridor is to help achieve minimum

escapement goals for Susitna sockeye and provide enough coho salmon for Mat-Su anglers to have a successful sport fishery.

These same interests who now support Mr. Ruffner have stated in testimony to the BOF that the highest value accruing from UCI salmon comes from maximizing the commercial harvest. They have denigrated the State's Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, testified to the Legislature that the BOF process is broken and must be replaced, filed suit in Federal Court in an attempt to have UCI salmon fisheries managed under federal oversight and filed suit in State Court to have UCI commercial salmon fishing regulations overturned.

You can tell a lot about a person from the friends they keep and UCI sport anglers, if not the entire state, have much to be concerned about Mr. Ruffner's nomination. More than 50 percent of all sport and personal use fishing occurs in UCI. My guess is that sometime this summer or next when the UCI salmon fisheries are subject to some new or more severe restriction the 41 percent of the state's population that calls Anchorage home is going to wake up to the fact that they have no direct representation on the BOF. They will be relegated to watching from the banks while commercial nets remain in the water.

By Kevin Delaney

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Kenny Bingaman <fish@kingsizeadventures.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2015 9:57 AM  
Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Fw: Do Not Confirm Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish.  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**From:** [Kenny Bingaman](#)

**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2015 9:00 AM

**To:** [Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov) ;  
[Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov) ;  
[Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov) ; [Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Do Not Confirm Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish.

**Kenny Bingaman**

PO Box 2163, Soldotna, Ak. 99669

907-260-9442--907-398-6143

*Esteemed Legislators,*

*I am sending this email to you today to ask you not to confirm Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fish. Mr. Ruffner is not what he seems. I have lived in Alaska and on the Kenai Peninsula for over 40yrs. He and others are giving the impression that he is an "environmentalist", "habitat specialist", "resource protectionist" and nothing could be farther from the truth. Of course he has sport fished, of course he has dip netted, but so has most of the commercial fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula.*

*The Kenai Watershed Forum that he is a co-founder of is inundated with commercial fishing interest. it's board is made up of 54% commercial fishers or people connected to commercial fishing. He has gotten wide support of commercial fishing people from the Kenai Peninsula;*

*Ken Tarbox, 16yrs Soldotna ADF&G Commercial fishing head biologist, who while he was there declared that his department at ADF&G would manage the Kenai River and Cook Inlet for a Commercial fishing priority, John McCombs, East Side Set Netter, Robert Correia, East Side Set Netter, Rep. Sen. Peter Micciche-Soldotna, Cook Inlet Drift Commercial Fisherman, Dwight Kramer, founder of Joe Fisherman Coalition, Soldotna, who's board of directors is inundated with commercial fishermen. Yesterday Brent Johnson a Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly member got a resolution pushed thru that recommended Robert Ruffner as Chairman of the*

***Board of Fish. Brent Johnson is an East Side Set Net commercial fisherman, who was rejected by the legislature in 2012 as a nominee by then Gov. Parnell because it would have slanted the BOF with a commercial fish majority. The City of Kenai today also sent forth a resolution recommending Robert Ruffner, there are 3 sitting Kenai City Council members that are commercial fishermen.***

***When was the last time you saw commercial fishermen support anyone who is labeled “an environmentalist”, “a habitat specialist”, “a resource protectionist”? My friends, the answer is never. Such people are commercial fishing's worst enemies. In fact Roland Maw was connected to this entity by the past president of KWF, Jim Butler aka Commercial fisherman.***

***There has been 3 studies by the Kenai Watershed Forum to date that have been done to illuminate Kenai River Guides and sport fishing power boats from the Kenai River. All of these studies, (attempts), failed. it all began with;***

***a “Hydrocarbon study” financed and performed by this entity. It directly targeted/blamed the Kenai River Guides 2 stroke outboards for high levels of hydrocarbons and stated that continued guide boat impact would devastate the aqua structure of the river and all of its inhabitants, especially the salmon. They called for an outright ban on all power boats. Fortunately, technology beat them to the punch by the major outboard manufacturers developing and producing 4 stroke outboards that reduced hydrocarbon levels to a non-issue in the Kenai River.***

***Within 2yrs, there was another study conducted. This time it was called a water clarity study in association with a “boat wake” study that involved damage to the Kenai River’s banks by power boat traffic. Immediately guide boats were targeted/blamed as the problem with bank erosion due to the weight of guide boats filled with clients. Not only was a ban on guide boats suggested, but Kenai River State Parks actually limited the number of clients in a guide boat during the month of July to 4 people. Again, guides and the industry corrected the problem quickly by proving that raising the horsepower, which had been set at 35 since 1985 to 50hp, thereby enabling full boats to get on step faster and produce much smaller waves. Raising the horsepower limit made total sense as no manufacture made 35hp outboards for almost 20yrs at that time. Again, technology thwarted the Kenai Watershed Forums accusations. However, Kenai River Guides never again got back to full boat loads of clients that they had had before, the law remains, only 4 clients allowed in a Guide boat during the month of July. A loss in revenue that for them was never regained. The water clarity study did not go away until common sense information to the Kenai Watershed Forum forced its demise. It was noted that on the dates they said the water was at its worst, that large tidal activity which back flowed as far up the Kenai River as mile 16 brought with it the bottom of the river’s mud and churned up waters from commercial fishing boats, from the mouth of the river. The test study area was at river mile 12. Also they were enlightened to the fact that the Kenai River was a glacial fed river with frequent flooding due to rainfall and the Snowy Glacier ice dam which releases large amounts of water on a bi-yearly schedule. It took a while for them to finally understand how flawed their study was and actually fought with us and continued it until rational common sense ended the study.***

***And a look at the list of donors to the Kenai Watershed Forum shows another truth;***

*Ken Tarbox has donated money to the Kenai Watershed Forum. Peter & Erin Micciche, Cook Inlet Drift Commercial fisherman, have donated money to this entity. Robert and Tara Ruffner have donated \$5,000 to the WF. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife have donated \$25,000. Sheldon and Debbie Ruffner donated a \$1,000. Robert Correia, East Side Set Netter, donated a \$1,000. Paul Dale, Snug Harbor Seafood's, donated \$1,000. United Cook Inlet Drifters Association, the largest commercial fishing association on the Kenai Peninsula donated \$500. Cook Inlet Keeper donated \$500. Even the State of Alaska donated \$20,000 under the Capital Projects Budget, wonder who in Juneau got that put through,(Chenault whose chief of staff is Tom Wright, who held the same job at United Cook Inlet Drift Association as Roland Maw)? And who is Cook Inlet Keeper?*

### **Cook Inlet Keepers Board**

Benjamin Jackinsky, President **Commercial Fisherman**

Mako Haggerty , vice Pres **Commercial Fisherman**

Mike O Meara **Commercial Fisherman**

Nancy Wainwright **Commercial Fisherman**

Rob Ernst **Commercial Fisherman**

Tom Evans **Commercial Fisherman**

Willow Kiing **Commercial Fisherman**

Peter Mos **Commercial Fisherman**

Shannyn Moore **Commercial Fisherman**

<http://inletkeeper.org/about/board>

*In closing I would like to say again, please do not confirm Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish. This seat has always been a sport fishing seat and it should be again to return an equal balance in interest numbers to the Board. 3 Commercial Fishing Seats, 3 Sport Fishing Seats and 1 Subsistence Seat.*

*Thank you for your time,*

*Kenny Bingaman, Kenai Peninsula Resident.*



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



P.O. Box 478 • Homer • Alaska • 99603

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

Senate President Kevin Meyers and Speaker Mike Chenault;

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

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

As an organization, our main points of concern are:

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

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

Sincerely,

Richard Yamada (President)     David Bayes (Vice President)

cc: Alaska State Senators, Alaska House Representatives

Dear Senator Stoltz,

Finding qualified candidates is not always easy, whether it be a new employee, someone running for office or filling seats on boards and commissions. With the latter tending to be volunteer and thankless positions.

Having regional diversity on the B of F is critically important in a state the size and regionally diverse as Alaska.

Yes, you could have 7 qualified members from a single area of the state but the perception of the public wouldn't be good. And since the board process prides itself on being publicly driven, it only makes sense to be regionally diverse. Not only for the public perception but also to bring to the table the knowledge specific to their area. That in turn would help the other board members understand what's going on in that part of the state.

The Anchorage area holds about half of the population of the state. One could make the argument that half of the board members should come from there. That sounds ridiculous, right? But not finding a qualified individual from the largest pool of people in the state to choose from is not in the best interest of the people. Even though the legislature is not directed to be regionally diverse, I disagree about having a board without Anchorage area representation.

While we all should be sensitive to environmental issues, the B of F is not the place to push that agenda. Therefore an environmentalist should not be considered. It is about managing the fisheries. There are other groups that watch and manage environmental issues. Yes, there are environmental factors that affect fisheries, as well as many other factors. The B of F depends on experts from all fields of study to provide data to help them make informed decisions. These groups should work together but the lines should not be blurred. They should be kept separate. Concentrate on what your appointed to do and listen to experts from other agencies on what they were hired or appointed to do.

A person can only do so much in a world filled with so much data to sift through. By having too many irons in the fire the quality of the end product suffers. Great managers surround themselves with different people that excel in different areas. When then happens, more often than not, good decisions are made and everyone wins.

Please do not put someone on the B of F outside of the Anchorage area and would have themselves spread too thin to be effective in the position they are being appointed for.

Sincerely,  
Dan Ernhart



April 11, 2015

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

Dear Senator Stoltze,

Kenai River Professional Guide Association (KRPGA) is a 501(c) 6 non-profit trade association of professional guides on the Kenai Peninsula who fish both freshwater and saltwater fisheries in Cook Inlet. **KRPGA is writing you to express our opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF).**

The BOF plays a vital role in the management of our fisheries on the Kenai and Alaska. We feel that it is imperative to have a balanced board of both commercial and sport interests along with subsistence representation. The primary duty of the BOF is to allocate harvestable surpluses (above fishery conservation needs) of fish between these various user groups. The traditional 3 – 3 – 1 split (3 commercial, 3 sport, and 1 subsistence) has provided a stable format without giving any one sector controlling allocation influence on the BOF.

We believe that the confirmation of Mr. Ruffner to the BOF will upset the balance that has worked well over the years. Although Mr. Ruffner claims to be a personal use and sport angler, he has offered opinions in committee and public forums that seem to contradict this statement or at least shows a lack of understanding of sport fish issues. Locally, although Mr. Ruffner has worked for habitat conservation, he has not been a vocal or strong advocate for personal use and sport fishing access and opportunity for the hundreds of thousands of dip netters and sport anglers.

The seat being replaced has been a traditional personal use / sport fish advocate from Anchorage, the state's largest population center. Although not required by statute, geographic representation has been a hallmark on the BOF. Anchorage residents are a primary user on the Kenai Peninsula public fisheries. As he lives in Soldotna, Mr. Ruffner will not be accessible to residents of Anchorage and will also come under intense pressure from Peninsula commercial fishing interests who dominate local politics.

As such, we are concerned that during past public forums and the recent confirmation hearings, Mr. Ruffner's responses have borrowed thoughts commonly expressed by the members of the

Peninsula commercial fishing community. Specially, he has stated that:

- Recent BOF decisions for Upper Cook Inlet, including allocation actions, are questionable and need to be redressed;
- Cook Inlet commercial fisheries managers need additional flexibility to go outside established management plans to meet escapement goals (use Emergency Opening time to avoid large sockeye escapements regardless of resulting allocative impacts on other fisheries and conservation impacts on other fish stocks);
- Mandatory, weekly commercial set net closures in Cook Inlet fisheries do not provide substantial benefits to in-river personal use and sport fisheries; and
- In-river personal use and sport fisheries on the Kenai River contribute to cumulative habitat impacts that may warrant substantial fishery restrictions even where there is no measurable biological impacts.

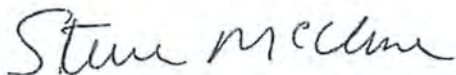
The majority of public support for Mr. Ruffner has come from the commercial fishing community, statewide and especially from Cook Inlet. These interests have well known positions in support of severe restrictions of salmon allocations to the personal use and sport fisheries in Cook Inlet and the personal use fishery at Chitina, which are the state's largest personal use and sport fisheries. They have stated in public testimony that the highest value accruing from Cook Inlet salmon comes from maximizing commercial harvests.

It matters where people come from when appointed to the BOF. While Mr. Ruffner should be thanked for his public service on local boards and for his efforts to protect aquatic habitat, he lacks a fisheries background, has no track record of advocacy support for personal use and sport fisheries in Cook Inlet or elsewhere in Alaska, and has close connections to commercial fishing interests that actively works against the interests of the very group this seat has represented for years.

**We strongly urge you to vote against confirmation of Mr. Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.**

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Respectfully,



Steve McClure  
KRPGA, President

cc: Alaska State Legislators



## **Alaska Trollers Association**

130 Seward #205  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-9400 phone  
(907) 586-4473 fax  
ata@gci.net

March 21, 2015

Governor Bill Walker  
State of Alaska  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

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

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

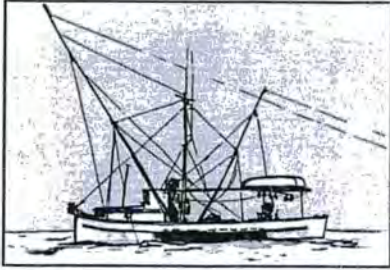
Mr. Ruffner is an angler who has proven himself a consensus builder. He honed that people-skill while working to protect habitat and sustain Alaska's natural resources. Robert is familiar with Cook Inlet and the value of all fisheries to the social and economic health of the region and state. He has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

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

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

Best Regards,

Executive Director



## **Alaska Trollers Association**

130 Seward #205

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 586-9400 phone

(907) 586-4473 fax

ata@gci.net

April 8, 2015

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

Dear Senator Bill Stolze and Committee Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Kelley".

Executive Director





State of Alaska  
Ketchikan Legislative  
Information Office

1900 First Ave, Suite 310, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Phone: (907) 225-9675 Fax (907) 225-8546

# Fax

To: Senate State Affairs From: Byron Charles  
 Fax: 465-4928 Pages: 4 w/cover  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/13/15  
 Re: \_\_\_\_\_ CC: \_\_\_\_\_

- Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

• Comments:

Shannon Ketchikan LIO

Alaska Statehood Act... 85-508; 1958

Failure to Comply  
State & Federal Agencies.

On a government to government level  
Equally shared decision making system  
Not available since 1958.

Agreements made, and legally signed  
Contract agreement applies to all  
in Alaska.

Congress has provided tools for  
people in Alaska to use, and  
problem is no one qualified with  
experience; and knowledge. Qualified  
to use tools provided by united  
States Congress.

Therefore since 1958 there's been  
serious criminal acts being committed  
by all those who acted under color  
of State and Federal Laws.

Knowingly and willingly ignored  
Due Processing system.

For Alaska to comply with  
original agreement.

Attention Alaska State  
Legislators, Senators, and Rep.  
Juneau Alaska, 99811

## Comply with Policies, Regulations, and Guidelines.

Criminal Acts are taking place  
right before our eyes.

Primary Examples:

Illicit Fisheries on Kenai River also  
known as "Fish Wars".

Creating danger to other fishermen.  
may cause fuel leaks into river, running  
into another skidder, and causing  
problems for our salmon.

Solicit others to commit a crime.

Vandalism in progress violations  
of State and Federal Laws.

Reckless Endangerment complete  
disregard for safety, and welfare  
of others. Negligence failure to use  
standard of care a reasonable person  
would use in a given situation.

People who rely on fishing, hunting  
and other resources in our state.

The Constitution guarantees this as  
well. To prevent the government from  
favoring one group of people over  
another. Must impose punishment for  
consequences for their misconducts.

avited States Congress provided tools,  
for Alaska people to not only comply,  
apply, and enforce guidelines.

Primary Example: Federal Tribal Organization  
are an administrative body with  
same powers, authority as any  
U.S. District Court System.

however people needed training, education,  
experience, and knowledge.

The Alaska Statehood Act is a  
legal binding document, and must  
be complied with by all in Alaska.

This would create positive jobs  
for our young people, and a  
solid foundation as well.

Local, state, and Federal agencies  
cannot prove me wrong.

You must inform the Public  
"Information Act;"

Primary Example:

EASE# IKE-13-000164 CI

(C)  
PCC

Respectfully,  
Mr. Byron E. Marks  
tribal member.