

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILES 8672

2609 SCOMM 114: HOUSE SPEC.COMM ON FISHERIES, 1999-2000



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389
(907) 283-3600 • fax (907) 283-3306 • e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

April 20, 1999

Representative Hal Smalley
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol, Room 438
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Board of Fisheries Confirmation

Dear Representative members,

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

During the past three years our organization has written to the Legislature, sent POM's, and lobbied individual members with our concerns, criticisms, and requests about both the operation and conduct of the Board of Fisheries. Today, more than before, Alaska's commercial fisheries are in trouble. Specifically, our long-standing historical, economically viable Cook Inlet drift fishery is in serious trouble. Not because the salmon runs have failed, not because the markets have failed, and certainly not because we have failed to reinvest in our own economic future by doing all that was possible to cooperate with and promote the best biological management possible. We are in trouble because of the political-economic, social engineering decisions made by members of our present Board of Fisheries.

The three appointees seeking confirmation have demonstrated by past actions that they are more than willing to carry out the administration's agenda as to "how" and "who" will profit from the ongoing harvest of Alaska's renewable resources. Unfortunately, the Governor's "vision" for the future is altogether too single minded. In fact, his agenda can also be summed up in one word - tourism. There are thousands of "we Alaskans" who would prefer to continue the multiple use resource economy we have enjoyed in the past, and we are prepared to continue to argue our ideas before the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska State Legislature.

However, we believe and have previously stated, that the makeup of the Board is unfair and, effectively, has given the Governor more power than was intended. In fact, enough power to carry out his personal will as to the "how" and "who" of a subject so critical to

so many people throughout our State. It only takes a majority of four appointees to get the job done for Governor Knowles.

Today, it is your turn to put forth your ideas concerning the economic use of our fishery resource. If you believe that commercial fishing should continue to be an important part of an Alaskan diversified economy, then you must seriously participate in the selection of individuals who will make those decisions for all Alaskans and Alaska's future.

One appointee has proven to be up to the task. Though Mr. Coffey has more than once voted for proposals, which have negatively impacted our fishery, in all good conscience, we cannot doubt his professionalism, concern, and commitment to do his very best as a member of the Board. The Governor, the sport fishery, and the tourism industry have enjoyed excellent representation through the persona of Dan Coffey. He alone has proven capable of mustering enough support within the Board to make sweeping changes to our fisheries' future.

In addition to Mr. Coffey, we ask you to select, through your power of confirmation, at least two bona-fide professional commercial fishermen with a long-standing history and understanding of the importance and value of our commercial fishing industry. This representation on the Board is lacking and, in fact, absent from the process.

We ask you to ensure this representation, not for selfish reasons and, not to ram-rod our position, but rather to allow the thousands of us to go home to our families and once again be able to say that we received fair treatment and our views were adequately represented and argued during the process.

As we have said, the Governor has had his way and the commercial fisheries have suffered the results of his agenda. Now it is your time to remind this administration that there are more opinions than his own about how Alaska will benefit from our renewable resources.

Respectfully yours,



Steve Tvenstrup, 1st Vice President
Bob Merchant, Member, Board of Directors
United Cook Inlet Drift Association

ST/ch

cc: Alaska State Legislature



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 • 0389
(907) 283-3600 • fax (907) 283-3306 e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

April 23, 1999

Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Board of Fisheries Confirmation

Dear Representative Hudson,

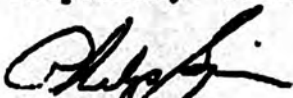
In a follow-up to our letter dated April 20, 1999, we would like to clarify the United Cook Inlet Drift Association's position. We recommend that the Legislature withhold the reconfirmation of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller & Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries.

UCIDA appreciates the hard working commitment required to serve on the Board of Fisheries and appreciates the willingness of all three appointees to serve another term. It has been our position, however, that the current Board is geographically and experientially unbalanced and does not serve the best interests of the state's largest employer, commercial fishing.

These three appointees have already sat on two regular cycle Cook Inlet meetings and three Board approved special meetings. If reconfirmed, they would sit on at least one more regular Cook Inlet meeting and be a part of a full decade of policy making for Cook Inlet. There has always been the tacit understanding that a Board member should serve no more than two terms.

The last three years of Board meetings on Cook Inlet issues have been very frustrating, time consuming, and expensive for commercial fishing in Cook Inlet. It is extremely important to the health and survival of commercial fishing in Cook Inlet to return balance to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We respectfully request you use this opportunity to do so.

Respectfully Yours,


Philip Squires
President UCIDA


Steve Tvenstrup
Vice President UCIDA



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

April 22, 1999

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

Representative Bill Hudson
Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hudson,

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

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

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

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

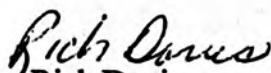
Because of the social and economic significance of commercial fisheries, we feel it is only fair that there be at least one more experienced commercial fisheries member.

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Rich Davis
President



Southeast Prince William Sound Kodiak South Peninsula Chignik
P.O. Box 1669 Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3767 phone (907) 442-3867 fax

April 22, 1999

Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Hudson;

United Salmon Association strongly opposes the re-appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries. We feel a member of the board must be able to make unbiased decisions regarding issues that affect us, the second largest income-producing industry in the state of Alaska. The decisions made by the Board of Fisheries have a large affect on our daily lives and livelihoods as small independent fishing families.

We believe you have an opportunity to correct the present imbalance on the Board, and that the Board of Fisheries would benefit from such a change in membership.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herb Jensen".

Herb Jensen
Chairman Prince William Sound

cc: Senator Georgiana Lincoln
Representative John Harris

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

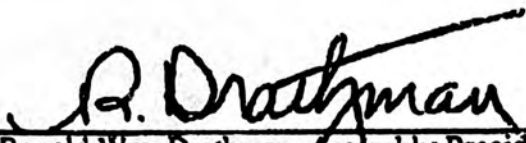
SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports the wishes of the Cook Inlet commercial fishing families and businesses and strongly opposes the confirmation of the three current members reappointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, who are Dan K. Coffey, Virgil L. Umphenour and Grant Miller.

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

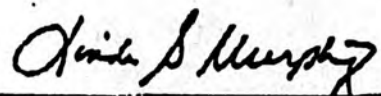
SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Knowles, the Alaska Legislature, Alaska Board of Fisheries, Commissioner of Fish and Game, and Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

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

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


Ronald Wm. Drathman, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk



Cordova District Fishermen United

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

April 25, 1999

Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SENT BY FACSIMILE TO (907) 465-2273

Dear Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Aspelund

Sue Aspelund
Executive Director

cc: Senator Georgiana Lincoln
Representative John Harris
Representative Ethane Berkowitz
Representative Joe Green
Representative Gail Phillips
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Jerry Mackie
UFA
CRSPA
USA - PWS



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FISHERIES
committee name

committee on B.O.F. CONFIRMATIONS, dated 4/26/99
bill # / subject

MY NAME IS REUBEN HANKE. I OWN AND OPERATE A GUIDE BUSINESS ON THE KENAI RIVER. I AM ~~REUBEN~~ HERE TODAY IN SUPPORT FOR RECONFIRMATION OF ALL THREE BOARD MEMBERS. I FEEL THAT THIS BOARD IS THE BEST TEAM THAT WE HAVE HAD. I HAVE ATTENDED B.O.F. MEETINGS FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS AND ATTENDED NEARLY ALL OF THE MEETINGS THIS YEAR AND HAVE FOUND THIS BOARD TO BE EXTREMELY FAIR, UNBIASED AND APPROACHABLE. THESE ARE THINGS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN THERE IN THE PAST. ONCE AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TO VOICE MY SUPPORT FOR MR. VIRGIL UMPHREY, MR. GRANT MILLER AND MR. DAN COFFEE.

THANK YOU

Signed:

Reuben A. Hanke

Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 624 KENAI, AK 99611

Address

262-5097

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Fisheries
committee name

committee on BoF Appointments, dated 4/26-99
bill # / subject

I as a Commercial fisherman, say's you have to go!! Because your statement is for getting fish up the river for sport fishermen. You should be just said it. Believe me fish up the river for substance growth is the only reason your here.

The river is a Sanctuary it's a mother's birth canal it is for fish. all sport fishing should be done out side the river.

The lake or mouth of the (inlet) river only. fly fishing maybe. as I said be fore. you are here for the sport only. listen to you Lack of data lack of data. get real I don't want you here Your a drain on our funds please step down

Signed:

L. Carmon

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Rt 1 Box 1314-7 Kenai AK 99611

Address

907-776-8862

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Fisheries
committee name

committee on BOF APPOINTMENTS, dated 4-26
bill # / subject

I Support the ReAPPOINTMENTS of
Grant Miller, Virgil Umphreys, and
Dan Coffee TO THE BOARD OF Fish.
They have the Conservation of the
Fishery Resource as there #1 GOAL
and Support Sustainable Fisheries.

Signed:

Mel E Rickson

Testifier

Deep Creek Charter Boat ASSOC.

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1127

SOLDOTNA 99619

Address

262-2980

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFS4
committee name
committee on BOF, dated 4-26-99
bill # / subject

For the record I am in favor for reappointment
of Dan Coffey, Vergil Up. and Ernest Miller.
I think it would be an injustice not
to let this board finish the work they
have started. I've been to every BOF
meeting for the last 5 yrs. and I'm very
satisfied with the work they have done.

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

198 Hillcrest Ave, Seldovia, AK

Address

907-262-9439

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFSH
committee name

committee on BD of fisheries, dated 4-26-99
bill # / subject

I disagree with certain
stands taken by the AK
Board of fisheries and
don't want to see Dan. K.

Coffey, Virgil L Umphenour
and Grant Miller — ~~added~~

Please: Deny confirmation to these
current members —

Signed:

Conie M. Davis

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Box 2837 Soldotna, AK
Address 99669

907-283-7569
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Fisheries
committee name

Re-
committee on B.O.F. Appointment, dated 4/26/99
bill # / subject

My name is Donna Schouweiler, I have fished in Cook Inlet commercial Fisheries for 38 years. I now run my commercial fishing boat along with my 3 daughters. And, if this Board of Fish continues to ~~make~~ ^{make} their decisions without any Biological Basis, my daughters and I have ~~no~~ ^{no} hope for a lively hood. I was shocked at the lack of consideration concerning my lively hood that the Fish Board showed during the Soldotna meeting last month. I can't believe Governor Knowl's is even considering re-appointing Dan Coffee - Grant Miller and Virgil Umphenour. I strongly believe that there should be a least 2 commercial Fishermen (salt water) from the Cook Inlet Area. Their ~~decisions~~ decisions were not made on any Biological Basis or even common sense.

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Donna Schouweiler
Myself and my lively hood
38150 Panoramic Dr Soldotna AK 99669
907-262-8462



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFSH
committee name
committee on Brd of Fisheries, dated 4/26/99
bill # / subject

I feel it is in the best interest to deny confirmation of Alan Coffee, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller to the Board of Fisheries. They have served their time. Their political management of the fisheries will cause damage to the Kenai Rivers habitat areas. Let's have someone locally familiar with the Kenai River. My family has been dependent on the Kenai fishery for 3 generations. Legislation passed by the board of fish has caused lost income, jobs and support industries, and processors.

Signed:

Russell L. Delman

Testifier

(self)

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 469 Kenai, AK 99611

Address

907-283-9512

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Fisheries
committee name

committee on B.O.F. Appointment, dated 4-30-99
bill # / subject

I am opposed to the reappointment of Mr Dan Coffey
Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller to the AK Board of Fish.
Dan Coffey's ideas do not coincide with the nature of the
Salmon runs of Cook Inlet. Such as wanting more fish
to the Northern District for Northern Settlers in my
mind is disguised as a design for growth in the
guiding business in the Mat-Su Boro district, totally
BIASED. Grant Miller lives in Sitka NO real knowledge
of Cook Inlet stocks of Salmon, Sitka yes. Cook Inlet
is not of that as Yukon delta. We need someone
who is knowledgeable of Cook Inlet there are plenty
of people whom are qualified to put together a
program that might work. Also you cannot blame
the disappearance of Beluga Whites on commercial
fishing —

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

PS I have
given the
best years of
my life towards
fishing in Cook
Inlet

Myself & my lively head & the Kenai River

PO Box 903 Kenai AK 99611

283-7046



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFS+I

committee name

committee on Board of Fisheries Reappointment, dated 4/26/99
bill # / subject

I am apposed to the reappointment of all 3 board of fisheries board members. When the upper the escapement levels on the Kenai River, they were not taking for the Kenai. Too much escapement will starve out all fish & destroy spawning beds. Plankton are what feed salmon feed on. Plankton can be measured & it can be determined how many fish can be fed. This is pushing the feeding limits. For example if I have enough food to feed six people for dinner I could actually maybe feed up to twenty people but if I try & feed a hundred people everyone will be hungry and if I tried to feed that same size meal to a hundred every night they would all starve to death over time. This is what will happen with these over escapement levels. Please don't reappoint these people they are not using these heads.

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

AK 1 Box 8330 Sel, AK 99662

907-262-6648



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFSH
committee name

committee on Board of Fisheries, dated 4-26-99
bill # / subject

I urge you to not re-appoint Dan Coffey, Virgil Uptham & Grant Miller to the B. of F. They are biased, in favor of sports fishing; I feel that we do not get a fair representation concerning the ecological damage that is being done to the Kenai River, and they seem blinded to this problem. Their only answer is to put more fish in the Kenai River, no matter what the consequences! All groups should be equal; if one ^{group} is shut down from fishing due to low escapement goals, all should be shut down! Thank you for your time.

Signed: Wendy Howard

Testifier

Myself
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1693, Kenai, AK 99661
Address

283-9492
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Fisheries Committee
Board of Fisheries committee name

committee on Re-Appointment of Three B.F. Members, dated 1-26-98
 bill # / subject

I come before this committee today to express my discontent with the current make up of the B.O.F. Of the three members up for re-appointment, two members, who have served for at least a complete term still do not know how to present motions in any institutable regulatory language, therefore they are incompetent to serve the people of Alaska. The third member has a pre-disposed agenda and therefore is not open to any other concepts than his own. There is no compromise in his position. Does this serve the ~~the~~ people of Alaska? The current make-up of the B.O.F. ignore the impacts of these decisions that effect the local long term residents of the Kenai Peninsula, ~~Kenai~~ These board members follow biological data, that changes an abundant economy to one that is meager and has limited growth. A profile of the Commercial Fishing Industry (Kenai Peninsula Borough) states that 92% of the residents and participants of the Commercial fishing are Alaska natives, and the B.O.F. states that they review the history before making impacting regulation, but they do not consider impact to all the small communities and the impact by all of commercial fisheries in these communities.

"OVER"

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1422

Kenai, AK 99641

Address

302-1771

Phone number

These small communities are the backbone of rural economies of AK and in the Kenai Borough they are seriously overlooked by the BOF. The 1998 Soldotna board of fish dismantled the 1978 Cook Inlet Management plan but stated that they implemented like considerations in there new step-down plan. In reviewing the BOF consideration in writing the ^{original} plan, # 2. "The commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet is a valuable long-term asset of the state and must be protected..."; # 3. "as recreational demands increase the recreational user must be aware of what stocks will be managed primarily for commercial harvest in order that he not become overly dependant on these fish for recreational purposes...". These ~~considerations~~ considerations are nowhere written in these new step-down plans. Forgotten? Or purposely negated!! This board does not have equal representation and has never had an advocate of commercial SET-NET fishing statewide or even in Cook Inlet yet it is the dominant limited entry permit holder. At present there is no represented commercially knowledgeable BOF member who understands or has any ~~history~~ ^{history} in Cook Inlet. Yet there are three members that represent lesser users of the total resource. It is no wonder that recent regulations adopted on the major traditional user restricts the user to a lesser non-viable category. ~~The~~ ^{These} ~~board~~ ^{board} ~~prejudice~~ ^{prejudice} ~~contempt~~ ^{contempt} ~~bias~~ ^{bias}, ~~disparaging~~ ^{disparaging} ~~uninformed~~ ^{uninformed}, arrogant ^{and} ~~are~~ ^{are} all terms that I could use in describing the current Board re-appointees. Please, out of fairness and decency, Do Not Re-Confirm Dan Coffey, Grant Miller and Virgil Umpenhauer.

~~From~~ From a 100 yr family resident
of the Kenai Peninsula.

Date April 26, 1999

TO: House Special Committee of Fisheries
Representatives Hudson, Dyson, Harris, Morgan, Whitaker, Kapsner,
And Smalley

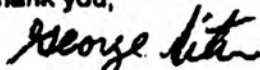
From: George R. Siter, Jr.
14865 Sterling Highway
Cooper Landing, AK 99572-9796
Phone: 595-1288
Fax: 595-1681

Dear Chairman Hudson:

I would like to inform you and your committee that I strongly support the reappointment of Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller to the Board of Fisheries.

I am a member of the Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Neither I nor anyone on our committee, to my knowledge, was surveyed for our opinion on the reappointment of the aforementioned men. The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly is completely out of touch with the people in the community, especially Cooper Landing. They haven't figured it out yet that "It's the economy, Stupid". The Board has been doing a fine job as have the men mentioned above.

Thank you,


George Siter

April 26, 1999

State of Alaska
House of Representatives
House Fisheries Committee
Rep. Bill Hudson, Chair

Re: Board of Fisheries--Confirmation hearings

Members of the Committee:

I strongly disagree with Virgil Umphenhour's reappointment to the Board of Fisheries, based on the following concerns. The responsibility of being a Board member, requires that each member informs themselves with all related facts concerning each user group in all areas of the state. After all facts are presented, each board member is supposed to make an unbiased, and informed vote. Each member should vote on facts not hearsay. Mr. Umphenhour has proven by his comments during his term on the board, that he clearly has a bias towards commercial fishermen and hatcheries, not only in Prince William Sound, but statewide. Statements he has made include:

"The Copper river fishermen use their gillnets as beach seines." This statement is false, we fish drift gillnets, meaning we lay them out in a straight line, then drift with the current. The current in the Copper river delta runs anywhere from one to fifteen miles per hour.

He quoted that the Copper river is "ten feet deep" and that we "fishermen like to kill every last fish". These are also false statements. Commercial fishermen on the Copper river, fish waters anywhere from 3 to 300 feet deep. Channels inside the barrier islands (our historic fishing grounds) can be anywhere from 80 to 100 feet deep, it is a delta, to say its all "ten feet deep" is an uninformed statement. If we are stopping all the fish, how can it be that in the last three years, we have had record breaking king and red salmon runs on the Copper river? King salmon return as 3, 4, and 5 year fish. This means that in 93, 94, and 95, the return escapement was large enough to produce record runs in 96, 97, and 98.

Umphenhour states that commercial fishermen have no respect for the resource. The fishermen of Cordova, along with Fish and Game have made, 5, 10, and 15 year plans to build a sustainable resource on the upper Copper river. In the last 10 years, the Copper river fishery has been the bright spot in the states management of fisheries. The king and red catches have been on the increase. The escapement has not only met, but exceeded the Department's goals 7 out of the last 10 years.

Any informed person should be praising the Alaska Department of Fish and Games ability to

page 1
R.H.

manage the resource. Instead, Mr. Uphenhour keeps on making damaging and false statements to both board members and the public. This should not continue. After his years on the Board of Fisheries, Mr. Umphenhour should have a better understanding on fisheries within the State of Alaska. Instead he makes false statements which have a lasting effect on both the board and the public's opinion on commercial fishermen in general. **I strongly urge the committee to not reappoint Mr. Umphenhour to the Board of Fisheries, because of his biased and unknowledgeable opinions!**

I have fished the Copper river since 1972 and thank you for the opportunity to have my views heard on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kory Blake
P.O. Box 1706
Palmer, AK 99645

Phone: 376-8325

APR 26 1999

April 26, 1999

State of Alaska
House of Representatives
House Fisheries Committee
Rep. Bill Hudson, Chair

Re: Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing

Members of the House Fisheries Committee:

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

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

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

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

Page 2 of 3

commercial fishermen have escapement levels to achieve before we go fishing, its always been under strict guidelines and that is just as it should be. The Copper river commercial fishery is over 100 years old and only recently have the upriver reaches become accessible to many users. I don't think its proper to have a biased and unknowledgeable person, making decisions on how the resource should be protected. Mr. Umphenhour is purely allocative and while trying to sound scientific, he forgets, this arena is to be left to properly trained biologists. This man makes accusations towards my user group and makes false claims about genetic diversity on king salmon stocks. I would like to see his credentials to make such statements. These statements have been made to the board as well as the public, damaging our credibility and reputation. One story I didn't relate in my previous letter was when myself and three or four other fishermen were outside of the 1996 meeting in Cordova, with Mr. Umphenhour. He looked out at the massive flock of seagulls in front of us and said: "they used to be thick like that up in Fairbanks, but I think I ended up shootin' them all, now you hardly see 'em." It is the truth I speak, and I have other witnesses to attest to his statements. Conservation does not seem to be his strong point! You'll have to forgive me if I don't put my trust in a man who has such disregard for protected wildlife.

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

Thank you for the chance to comment,

Bob Martinson
900 Iroquois Drive
Wasilla, AK 9965

Enclosure

page 3 of 3
Martinson

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

On PWSAC:

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

On the Cordova 1996 BOF meeting and the Copper River:

"To the best of my memory the Board did not enter into Executive Session in the meeting of December 1996 which was conducted in Cordova. So I don't know what they are talking about as far as the Board going into Executive Session. I do know that some of the driftnet fishermen fish inside the barrier islands of the Copper River and the water is 10 feet deep and using drift gillnets that are 29 feet deep. And using them in a manner, in the manner that you would use a beach seine. And they are seining the king salmon out. They're causing a problem with genetic diversity."

Subject: [Fwd: BOF confirmation]

Date: Thu, 22 Apr 1999 11:44:43 -0800

From: Representative Bill Hudson <Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Liz_Cabrera@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: BOF confirmation

Date: Thu, 22 Apr 1999 11:03:12 -0800

From: Anne & John Herschleb <soundadv@gci.net>

To: Scott Ogan <Representative_Scott_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>,
Jerry Sanders <Representative_Jerry_Sanders@legis.state.ak.us>,
Beverly Masek <Representative_Beverly_Mased@legis.state.ak.us>,
Ramona Barnes <Representative_Ramona_Barnes@legis.state.ak.us>,
John Harris <Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us>,
Mary Kapsner <Representative_Mary_Kapsner@legis.state.ak.us>,
Carl Morgan <Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>,
Reggie Joule <"Representative_Reggie_Joule"@legis.state.ak.us>,
Bill Hudson <Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us>,
Jim Whitaker <Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us>,
Hal Smalley <Representative_Hal_Smalley@legis.state.ak.us>

I am writing with regards to the confirmation of Virgil Umphenour. I am against reconfirming Mr. Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries. He has not grown into the position the way many others have. His grasp of the often complex issues is poor, and biased. His contribution to the board has been ineffectual. It is time to give someone else a chance. There are plenty of candidates who could do a better job.

Sincerely,

John Herschleb

Subject: [Fwd: BOF process and appointees]

Date: Mon, 29 Mar 1999 12:17:51 -0900

From: Representative Bill Hudson <Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Liz_Cabrera@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: BOF process and appointees

Date: Wed, 24 Mar 1999 10:14:50 -0900

From: Debbie & Curt Shuey <shuey@concentric.net>

To: Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Hudson:

Yesterday I sent the following message to Governor Knowles. Please consider the following thoughts, and consult with the Governor and other Legislators on finding people who will work to diffuse the contentious nature so prevalent in current discussions. Thank you for your service.

Curt Shuey
907-283-6650

Governor Knowles:

I spent 2+ weeks attending the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting in Soldotna in February. I do not wish to address the end result of these deliberations, but rather the process by which these results are achieved, and the part played by the various board members. The animosity and contention at that meeting were palpable, as they have been in the past. Some seem to believe that this is an unavoidable situation when "competing" user groups are involved, and that the only alternative to winning in this scenario is to lose. This creates the desperate "do or die" mindset that leads to such inflexible positions seen at the BOF meetings. It rips the unity from our small communities around Cook Inlet. I feel that we are all responsible for this state of affairs.

I am a commercial setnetter (currently serving on the Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association board) and sport fisherman in Cook Inlet, and have lived here for the past 20 years. I am chairing a newly created Outreach committee at KPFA, the mission of which is to develop a working relationship with open-minded individuals representative of other user groups in order to collaborate on areas of common interest and work towards resolving areas of disagreement. Many are cynical about these efforts, believing them to be naïve and subject to manipulation by the politically well-connected.

Unfortunately, this cynicism is sometimes borne out by the actions of the Board of Fish and/or its individual members. We in the user groups often approach our differences like school children on a playground, complete with gangs and bullies. The BOF members are our playground monitors. To the extent that they enter into collusion with special interests or act as advocates for a particular group or individual, they fail in their role as public servants, and confound the efforts of the peacemakers in the community. You, as governor, contribute to this problem if you appoint BOF members because of, or in spite of these

biases.

I understand that three BOF member's terms are expiring this year, and that all have expressed interest in reappointment. Please consider this carefully. I feel that the essential traits required in a person serving in this capacity are:

1. an open mind (unbiased)
2. strength of character (not susceptible to being lead by

other,
controlling, appointees)

3. a consensus-building nature (not win/lose)

4. a quick study (able to come up to speed on myriad
unfamiliar issues
quickly)

5. a basic understanding of biological systems

Experience in fisheries and regional balance are also considerations, but, in the absence some of the aforementioned traits, often lead to the advocacy roles which are so damaging to positive decision making.

Dan Coffey is very skilled at the BOF process as it is currently practiced. His bias is in question, although at the Soldotna meeting he appeared to act fairly. There is a danger in his manipulation of the present BOF process, as well as its members, over whom he has a large degree of control. Grant Miller is overly willing to follow Mr. Coffey's lead, rather than thinking independently. Virgil Umphenor's actions demonstrate a lack in all five of the above listed traits. He has taken on the role of board buffoon. Please do not submit his name for reappointment.

I urge you to make the most of this opportunity to move of the BOF and its decision-making process towards a healthier, collaborative, community enhancing manner of resolving differences. This will lend credibility to the efforts of some of us farther down the line.

Thank you,
Curt Shuey

907-283-6650

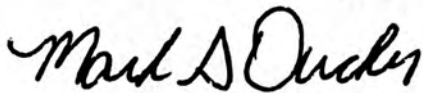
Harold Smalley and to whom it may concern:

Here is a packet containing signatures of 350 to 400 concerned business owners, local, fisher people and a very strongly worded resolution from the Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 99-034 sub.

Signatures are continuing to come in daily in support of these commercial fishing families. We are asking for your help and support in seeing that **Dan K. Coffey, Virgil L. Umphenour and Grant Miller** are not confirmed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries as they showed no regard for Kenai Peninsula's economy, people or fisheries habitat.

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

Thank you for you help.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mark S. Ducker".

Mark S. Ducker

POM for Representative Hudson



From: Ms Ella Ring
POB 103212

Telephone: 373-2080

Anchorage, AK 99510

NON Constituent

Registered Voter: U

Subject: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
Message:

I AM IN FAVOR OF THE CONFIRMATION OF COFFEY AND UMPHENOUR.

Entered in MAT on 4/20/99 POMID: 6551

Distribution: 12

[Main Menu](#)

[Store All](#)

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[Prev POM](#)

[Next POM](#)

Message 1 out of 1.

POM for Representative Hudson

From: Mr. Martin Mullin
PO Box 969

Telephone: 262-7262

Kasilof, AK 99610

NON Constituent

Registered Voter: Y

Subject: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Message:

I HAVE LIVED IN ALASKA FOR 35 YEARS AND DO NOT LIKE THE WAY THE BOARD OF FISHERIES IS POLITICALLY STACKED. PLEASE DO NOT REAPPOINT DAN COFFEY, VIRGIL UMPHENOUR AND GRANT MILLER.

Entered in SOL on 4/22/99 POMID: 6974

Distribution: 60

[Main Menu](#)

[Store All](#)

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[Prev POM](#)

[Next POM](#)

Message 1 out of 1.

POM for Representative Hudson



From: Mr. Samuel Brow
PO Box 1161

Telephone: 262-7984

Soldotna, AK 99669

NON Constituent

Registered Voter: Y

Subject: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
Message:

TO WHOM IT SHOULD CONCERN: I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIRECTION THE BOARD OF FISH IS HEADING. I BELIEVE THEY ARE NOT ACTING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE. THE BOARD IS LOP SIDED AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE, VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, GRANT MILLER AND DAN COFFEY SHOULD BE REPLACED.

Entered in SOL on 3/24/99 POMID: 2119

Distribution: 60

[Main Menu](#)

[Store All](#)

[Store This One](#)

[Prev POM](#)

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Message 92 out of 259.

Bob Martinson
900 Iroquois Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654
phone: 907-373-2627
e-mail: danse@mtaonline.net

MEMO TO: House Resources Committee
Scott Ogan, Co-Chair
Jerry Sanders, Co-Chair

FROM: Bob Martinson

DATE: April 20, 1999

SUBJECT: Board of Fisheries - confirmation hearings

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

During his tantrum he stated the we (Cordova) fishermen were allowed to "seine" up all the fish at the mouth of the river. Purse seining has never been allowed near the Copper River. Also, the "mouth" of the Copper River is about 60 miles wide across a delta, with many entrances. Mr. Umphenour's interest in a processing operation in Fairbanks provides him with biases and personal interests when it comes to dealing with certain areas of the state.

Because of his lack of judgment, the state should consider looking elsewhere for a Board of Fisheries candidate.

I am a resident of District 27, and rely solely on commercial fishing for my livelihood.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

cc: Representative John Harris
Senator Georgianna Lincoln
House Special Committee on Fisheries

[Fwd:]

Subject: [Fwd:]

Date: Mon, 26 Apr 1999 14:59:54 -0800

From: Representative Bill Hudson <Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Liz_Cabrera@legis.state.ak.us

Subject:

Date: Mon, 26 Apr 1999 16:40:55 -0400

From: sbourgeois@mindspring.com

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

To Representative Bill Hudson

My husband is a commercial fisherman in Cordova and it has been brought to our attention that the Board of Fisheries is currently filling vacancies. We feel very strongly about this matter because his livelihood and our family's financial support will often depend on decisions made by the Board of Fisheries.

Therefore, I ask you to please **not** vote to confirm Virgil Umphenour to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. He is biased, does not function from a broad perspective, and has little respect for some of the public he is charged with representing. He clearly should not be allowed to represent the public on this critical Board.

Thank you for listening to our opinion on this crucially important matter.

Chris and Susan Bourgeois

We need to send this message out to each and every Assembly member.

My name is STEVE TIENSTRUP and I live at 4928 BEAVER LP
I have lived in Alaska for 41 YEARS years and I am
in support of the commercial fishing industry in the State of
Alaska.

I have requested that the Kenai Borough assist commercial fishers in retaining their historical fishing businesses. Their livelihoods have been severely damaged by the present day Alaska Fish Board. I'm not happy with the current board of fish members

- Dan K. Coffey
- Virgil L. Umphenour
- Grant Miller

Because of creating undo hardships on these commercial fishers and their families who live in the Kenai Peninsula all year long.

The Mat-Su Borough has allocated money to various groups to travel to the Fish Board hearings in Soldotna. These groups have been successful in taking away a large portion of their income. This results in tax dollars being taken away from the local coffers.

Please support their efforts in maintaining their businesses on the Kenai Peninsula and please help them in retaining their historical way of life and livelihood.

I am asking that you support the lawsuit that Joseph A. Malatesta Sr. described to you at your Borough Assembly meeting, any way that you can.

Thank you,

Steve Tienstrup
4-23-99

occupation

OWNER OPERATOR of
THE ALASKAN LADY

We need to send this message out to each and every Assembly member.

My name is ROBT. E. MERCHANT and I live at KENAI.
I have lived in Alaska for 25 years and I am
in support of the commercial fishing industry in the State of
Alaska.

I have requested that the Kenai Borough assist commercial
fishers in retaining their historical fishing businesses. Their
livelihoods have been severely damaged by the present day
Alaska Fish Board. I'm not happy with the current board of
fish members

- Dan K. Coffey
- Virgil L. Umphenour
- Grant Miller

Because of creating undo hardships on these commercial fishers
and their families who live in the Kenai Peninsula all year long.

The Mat-Su Borough has allocated money to various groups to
travel to the Fish Board hearings in Soldotna. These groups
have been successful in taking away a large portion of their
income. This results in tax dollars being taken away from the
local coffers.

Please support their efforts in maintaining their businesses on
the Kenai Peninsula and please help them in retaining their
historical way of life and livelihood.

I am asking that you support the lawsuit that Joseph A.
Malatesta Sr. described to you at your Borough Assembly
meeting, any way that you can.

Thank you,

RE Merchant
occupation

Business

We need to send this message out to each and every Assembly member.

My name is Phil Squires and I live at LOT # 16 EBDTIDE DR
KENAI.
I have lived in Alaska for 26 years and I am
in support of the commercial fishing industry in the State of
Alaska.

I have requested that the Kenai Borough assist commercial fishers in retaining their historical fishing businesses. Their livelihoods have been severely damaged by the present day Alaska Fish Board. I'm not happy with the current board of fish members

- **Dan K. Coffey**
- **Virgil L. Umphenour**
- **Grant Miller**

Because of creating undo hardships on these commercial fishers and their families who live in the Kenai Peninsula all year long.

The Mat-Su Borough has allocated money to various groups to travel to the Fish Board hearings in Soldotna. These groups have been successful in taking away a large portion of their income. This results in tax dollars being taken away from the local coffers.

Please support their efforts in maintaining their businesses on the Kenai Peninsula and please help them in retaining their historical way of life and livelihood.

I am asking that you support the lawsuit that Joseph A. Malatesta Sr. described to you at your Borough Assembly meeting, any way that you can.

Thank you,



Business name F/V LIBERTINE

We need to send this message out to each and every Assembly member.

My name is JOHN J. Williams and I live at KENAI AK.
I have lived in Alaska for 37 years and I am
in support of the commercial fishing industry in the State of
Alaska.

I have requested that the Kenai Borough assist commercial fishers in retaining their historical fishing businesses. Their livelihoods have been severely damaged by the present day Alaska Fish Board. **I'm not happy with the current board of fish members**

- Dan K. Coffey
- Virgil L. Umphenour
- Grant Miller

Because of creating undo hardships on these commercial fishers and their families who live in the Kenai Peninsula all year long.

The Mat-Su Borough has allocated money to various groups to travel to the Fish Board hearings in Soldotna. These groups have been successful in taking away a large portion of their income. This results in tax dollars being taken away from the local coffers.

Please support their efforts in maintaining their businesses on the Kenai Peninsula and please help them in retaining their historical way of life and livelihood.

I am asking that you support the lawsuit that Joseph A. Malatesta Sr. described to you at your Borough Assembly meeting, any way that you can.

Thank you,

occupation

John J. Williams
Mayor City of Kenai

David R. Martin
71605 Sterling Hwy.
Clam Gulch, Ak. 99568
April 26, 1999

House Special Committee of Fisheries

Bill Hudson, Chair

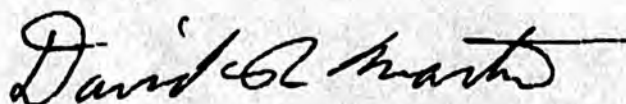
Dear Committee members,

I have been involved in the Boards of Fish and Board of Game local Advisory Committee process for over 20 years. I have been the Chairman of the Central Peninsula Advisory Committee for the past seven years. I am a firm supporter of the local Advisory Committees which were formed to be a channel for the local public to voice their opinions, expertise on local fish and game issues, and their concerns on regulations effecting them, the resource and habitat to the Boards. This has been a good system. Unfortunately the current Board of Fish has neglected and actually fought in opposition to many Advisory Committees Statewide. Check the record for Advisory Committees, other local groups, businesses, governments and even the Fish and Game Departments position on various issues and you will find the BOF often does the exact opposite. This is all to true here in Cook Inlet. One example is Dan Coffey's Board generated, out of cycle, allocation Proposal D three years ago. All the Board members voted to take up this proposal. Not only did it undermine the Advisory Comm. and Board process, it created a burden on the Advisory Comm., the public and the Dept. because of three extra meetings and at a cost of over \$100,000. The end result was an apology from Mr. Coffey, after he fought hard all winter to try to push it through. Gentlemen, this action was not professional, it was not responsible to the Board and Advisory Committee process, and it was not a responsible use of State money.

The Advisory Committee process has really deteriorated in the last three years because of the dictatorship approach the current Board has taken. Several good people and Chairmen have resigned. I hear many volunteer AC members state there frustration and say "what is the use wasting our time and money. The Board already has there minds made up and are going to do what they want to do anyway. There is nothing we can do to stop them. It doesn't even matter what the biology and science says. The Board still does its own thing." These are sad comments about Board of Fish members that are suppose to be creditable stewards of the resource and habitat and be responsible members working with the public not dictating to them.

Gentlemen, it is time for new blood on the Board of Fish. Please do not confirm Dan Coffey, Virgil Umpenhour, or Grant Miller for reappointment. I am alarmed, and you should be too, that this current Board is making regulations that are not based on sound biological and scientific data but ever more so on antidotal information from special interest groups. Habitat, Maximum Sustained Yield management (a Constitution mandate) the people's and the State's economic futures are not being protected. Managing fisheries socially, instead of biologically, has always destroyed salmon runs worldwide. It will happen in Alaska too if we let it. We must protect our great fish resource and the people that depend on it. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,



Sylvia R. Lange
Box 135
Cordova, Alaska 99574

House Special Committee on Fisheries,
Mr. Bill Hudson, Chair

April 24, 1999

Dear Mr. Hudson,

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

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

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

Mr. Umphenour has decided against all manner of facts, that the commercial salmon fishery of the Copper River Flats is run by individuals who have no regard for the resource. This is simply not true and the facts bear me out. The Copper River Flats has had a thriving commercial fishery and operating canneries on the Delta since 1898. Mr. Umphenour has accused the drift gillnetters of

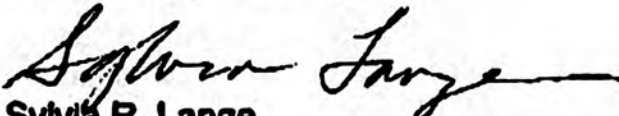
House Committee on Fisheries
4/24/99
P.2

"seining" king salmon in the shallows of the Copper River Delta inside the so-called "barrier islands". These barrier islands he keeps referring to are sand bars which in fact define the Copper River Flats from the Gulf of Alaska. Of course the fishermen oppose being shut out of this area--it is the traditional and customary fishing ground of the fishery, and has been for over 100 years! As for "seining" with drift gillnets in an area that has 10 knot tide influences, it defies imagination and reveals an ignorance of the area and fishery.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,


Sylvia R. Lange



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE SPECIAL
Please enter into the record my testimony to the COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
BOARD OF FISHERIES committee name
committee on CONFIRMATION HEARING, dated APRIL 26, 1999
bill/subject

I WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND
TODAYS HEARING.

PLEASE INCLUDE MY LETTER
ATTACHED AS MY TESTIMONY.

THANK YOU.

Signed:

M. J. Stuckwell
Testifier

SELF
Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721, EMER HARBOR AK 99572
Address

595-1540
Phone No.

DATE: April 25, 1999

TO: House Special Committee on Fisheries.
Representatives Hudson, Dyson, Harris, Morgan, Whitaker,
Kapsner, and Smalley

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

SUBJECT: April 26, 1999 Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing

Dear Chairman Hudson and Committee Members,

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

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

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

While conserving habitat and resource, the members of the Board of Fisheries must recognize the needs of subsistence, personal use, sport fishing, commercial sport fishing, and commercial fishing. These board members have worked hard to insure that these needs are met. Please support the confirmation of the reappointments of these current members.

Sincerely,


Bill Stockwell

April 24, 1999

Representative Bill Hudson
Chairman: Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Rm. 108
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hudson,

I have been a commercial fisherman residing and fishing out of Kodiak for the past 33 years. During that time, I have been on the Board of Directors of the United Fisherman's Marketing Association for over 20 years and more recently I have been the Vice President of the Alaska Dragger's Association for the last 4 years. My involvement in fisheries politics has up until now been on a local level.

At the January Board of Fisheries meeting held in Kodiak I testified as a stakeholder on Proposal #132: Ban Bottom Trawling in State Waters-Kodiak, and subsequently became a member of the groundfish committee. From there I was appointed by the BoF to serve on the Non-Pelagic Trawl Task Force which I did for 2 months before the March BoF meetings in Anchorage. I must say that the inclination of the BoF to close ALL State waters to non-pelagic trawling had me in disbelief. That this governing body was making decisions affecting so many people and would be so biased and unwilling to listen to both sides of the issue was shocking. In particular, Mr. Umpenhowe's manner of professional conduct could not have been LESS professional.

During the March BoF meeting in Anchorage, and more specifically the final deliberations by the BoF on Proposal #132, Mr. Umpenhowe's predisposed, biased and totally unprofessional conduct was rampant, as is demonstrated by the enclosed tape. The tape begins with Dr. White, Chairman of the BoF, asking Mr. Dave Jackson, Dept. of Fish & Game-Kodiak, about safety issues relating to proposed closed areas. Following, Mr. Umpenhowe launches his perspective.

You be the judge. Is this the kind of individual who will make intelligent, fair, unbiased decisions that will not only affect the livelihoods but also the

(2)

lives of many coastal Alaskan fishermen and their families? I don't think so.
Do not confirm Mr. Umpenhower!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Skip Bolton".

Skip Bolton

Box 2852

Kodiak, Alaska 99615

907-486-4099/486-2030-FAX

cc: Rep. Alan Austerman
Senator Jerry Mackie

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska

P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

April 25, 1999

**Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182**

SENT BY FACSIMILE TO (907) 465-2273

Dear Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Aspelund

Sue Aspelund
Executive Director

cc: **Senator Georgiana Lincoln**
Representative John Harris
Representative Ethane Berkowitz
Representative Joe Green
Representative Gail Phillips
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Jerry Mackie
UFA
CRSPA
USA - PWS

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the confirmation hearings of Mr. Virgil Umphenour. In my opinion he should not be a member of the Board of Fisheries.

Mr. Umphenour's statements concerning PWSAC and Copper River fishermen have more than effectively demonstrated his unsuitability for the Board.

I have been a Copper River fisherman for 20 years and find his comments extremely offensive.

It is absurd to think Copper River fishermen want to "kill every fish", as Mr. Umphenour maintains. My family and I are dependent on a healthy run which means we have a direct interest in the future of the Copper River salmon returns.

Mr. Umphenour's demonstrated bias against PWSAC also concerns me. PWSAC restructured its debt in 1997. Payments are expected to start June, 1999 which is earlier than originally anticipated. According to Bud Perrine, CEO, Mr. Umphenour should be aware of this from meeting's he attended earlier this year.

Mr. Umphenour has stated to you, "I don't remember any executive sessions during the last Area E Board meetings". Since these meetings are a matter of public record, a tape of this occurrence should be listened to by every committee member. Not only would this be proof an executive session was called, it would also be another demonstration of Mr. Umphenour's unsuitability to be a Board member. I would also recommend that committee members read through the entire record of this meeting and see for themselves how consistently Mr. Umphenour demonstrates his bias concerning Copper River fishermen.

Mr. Umphenour's statements to you and his record from previous Board meetings should disqualify him from future consideration. If

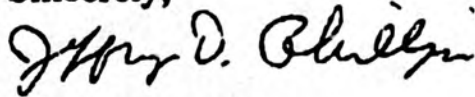
this was a court of law, Mr. Umphenour would not be able to hear a case concerning Copper River fishermen. We deserve no less from the Board of Fisheries.

In my experience testifying and observing Fish Board meetings I have seen many Board members leave their biases at the door and deliberate with open minds. Mr. Umphneour seems incapable of this. As a comercial fisherman, sports fisherman, and an Alaskan resident I deserve open-mindedness from my Board members.

Mr. Umphenour should not be retained as a Board of Fisheries member

Thank-you.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Phillips
Box 1565
Cordova, AK. 99574
(907) 424-3174

To: Representative Bill Hudson, Chairman Fisheries Committee

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

Subject: Board of Fish Appointees

Date: April 23, 1999

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

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

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

Box 1367
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-8541

April 24, 1999

Representative Bill Hudson
Chairman: Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Rm.108
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hudson,

I have been a commercial fisherman residing and fishing out of Kodiak for the past 33 years. During that time, I have been on the Board of Directors of the United Fisherman's Marketing Association for over 20 years and more recently I have been the Vice President of the Alaska Draggers Association for the last 4 years. My involvement in fisheries politics has up until now been on a local level.

At the January Board of Fisheries meeting held in Kodiak I testified as a stakeholder on Proposal #132: Ban Bottom Trawling in State Waters-Kodiak, and subsequently became a member of the groundfish committee. From there I was appointed by the BoF to serve on the Non-Pelagic Trawl Task Force which I did for 2 months before the March BoF meetings in Anchorage. I must say that the inclination of the BoF to close ALL State waters to non-pelagic trawling had me in disbelief. That this governing body was making decisions affecting so many people and would be so biased and unwilling to listen to both sides of the issue was shocking. In particular, Mr. Umpenhower's manner of professional conduct could not have been LESS professional.

During the March BoF meeting in Anchorage, and more specifically the final deliberations by the BoF on Proposal #132, Mr. Umpenhower's predisposed, biased and totally unprofessional conduct was rampant, as is demonstrated by the enclosed tape. The tape begins with Dr. White, Chairman of the BoF, asking Mr. Dave Jackson, Dept. of Fish & Game-Kodiak, about safety issues relating to proposed closed areas. Following, Mr. Umpenhower launches his perspective.

You be the judge. Is this the kind of individual who will make intelligent, fair, unbiased decisions that will not only affect the livelihoods but also the

(2)

**lives of many coastal Alaskan fishermen and their families? I don't think so.
Do not confirm Mr. Umpenhower!**

Sincerely,

**Skip Bolton
Box 2852
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
907-486-4099/486-2030-FAX**

**cc: Rep. Alan Austerman
Senator Jerry Mackie**



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFSH
committee name
committee on confirmations Bd of Fish, dated 4-26-99
bill # / subject

Anthony J. Cange

P.O. Box 99647, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 • Telephone (907) 345-6867 • Fax (907) 344-5309

April, 23 1999

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this letter today to express my concern for the conformation of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller, and Virgal Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries. I am a concerned vessel owner and Limited Entry Permit holder in the Cook Inlet. I am also A life long resident of Alaska. I can't express enough my strenuous objection to these individuals being confirmed to the board. Thank you for your time concerning this matter.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony J. Cange".

Anthony J. Cange

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

POM for Representative Hudson

From: Ms. Brenda Strother
PO Box 3517

Telephone: 283-4981

Kenai, AK 99611

NON Constituent

Registered Voter: Y

Subject: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
Message:

I DO NOT WANT COFFEY, MILLER OR UMPHENOUR REAPPOINTED. OUR FISHERIES HAVE BEEN GOING DOWNHILL. THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN STARVED OUT. THESE THREE FAVOR SPORT OVER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES. THERE IS PLENTY OF FISH FOR EVERYONE IF IT WAS MANAGED RIGHT. SO FAR, IT HAS NOT BEEN MANAGED RIGHT. EVERY YEAR THEY ARE WANTING MORE FISH UP THE KENAI RIVER, WHICH HAS NOT GOTTEN ANY LONGER, JUST A LITTLE WIDER DUE TO SPORT FISHERMEN'S HIGH-POWERED BOATS.

Entered in SOL on 4/23/99 POMID: 7172

Distribution: 60

[Main Menu](#)

[Store All](#)

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[Prev POM](#)

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Message 1 out of 3.

POM for Representative Hudson

From: Mr. Thomas Strother
PO Box 3517

Telephone: 283-4981

Kenai, AK 99611

NON Constituent

Registered Voter: Y

Subject: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Message:

I DON'T WANT COFFEY, MILLER & UMPHENOUR REAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEIR TREATMENT OF COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN IS UNFAIR. THEY ARE MOSTLY IN FAVOR OF SPORT FISHERMEN. WHEN THE COMMERCIAL FLEET IS CONSIDERED, THE DRIFTERS ARE LOW MAN ON THE TOTEM POLE. BECAUSE OF THIS, OUR PERMITS HAVE DROPPED RAPIDLY IN VALUE & OUR ESCAPEMENTS HAVE BEEN POOR WITH LOW NUMBERS OF FISH FOR US TO HARVEST. WE'VE BEEN ON A DECLINE FOR THE PAST 10-15 YEARS. SOMETHING MUST CHANGE!

Entered in SOL on 4/23/99 POMID: 7176

Distribution: 60

[Main Menu](#)

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[Prev POM](#)

[Next POM](#)

Message 2 out of 3.

POM for Representative Hudson

From: Mr. Mel Erickson
PO Box 1127

Telephone: 262-2980

Soldotna, AK 99669

NON Constituent

Registered Voter: Y

Subject: BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
Message:

**WE SUPPORT THE RECONFIRMATION OF GRANT MILLER, VIRGIL UMPHENOUR AND
DAN COFFEY TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES.**

Entered in SOL on 4/23/99 POMID: 7218

Distribution: 60

[Main Menu](#)

[Store All](#)

[Store This One](#)

[Prev POM](#)

[Next POM](#)

Message 3 out of 3.

POM for Representative Hudson

From: Ms. Francine J Bennis
21407 Bowery Ln

Telephone: 688-7827

Chugiak, AK 99567

NON Constituent

Registered Voter: Y

Subject: CONFIRMATION

Message:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONFIRMAITON FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF VIRGIL UMPHENOUR. I FISHED COMMERCIALY FOR 16 YEARS AND AM FAMILIAR WITH A NUMBER OF FISHERY ISSUES AND I BELIEVE VIRGIL WORKS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA. HE IS WILLING TO TAKE THE TIME TO STUDY ISSUES AND HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB ON THE BOARD OF FISH.

Entered in ANC on 4/23/99 POMID: 7105

Distribution: 8

[Main Menu](#)

[Store All](#)

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[Prev POM](#)

[Next POM](#)

Message 1 out of 1.

Business

We need to send this message out to each and every Assembly member.

My name is Phil Squires and I live at LOT # 16 EBDTAK DR
KENAI.
I have lived in Alaska for 20 years and I am
in support of the commercial fishing industry in the State of
Alaska.

I have requested that the Kenai Borough assist commercial fishers in retaining their historical fishing businesses. Their livelihoods have been severely damaged by the present day Alaska Fish Board. I'm not happy with the current board of fish members

- Dan K. Coffey
- Virgil L. Umphenour
- Grant Miller

Because of creating undo hardships on these commercial fishers and their families who live in the Kenai Peninsula all year long.

The Mat-Su Borough has allocated money to various groups to travel to the Fish Board hearings in Soldotna. These groups have been successful in taking away a large portion of their income. This results in tax dollars being taken away from the local coffers.

Please support their efforts in maintaining their businesses on the Kenai Peninsula and please help them in retaining their historical way of life and livelihood.

I am asking that you support the lawsuit that Joseph A. Malatesta Sr. described to you at your Borough Assembly meeting, any way that you can.

Thank you,



Business name F/V LIBERTINE

We need to send this message out to each and every Assembly member.

My name is ROBT. E. MERCHANT and I live at KENAI.
I have lived in Alaska for 25 years and I am
in support of the commercial fishing industry in the State of
Alaska.

I have requested that the Kenai Borough assist commercial
fishers in retaining their historical fishing businesses. Their
livelihoods have been severely damaged by the present day
Alaska Fish Board. I'm not happy with the current board of
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- Dan K. Coffey
- Virgil L. Umphenour
- Grant Miller

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Malatesta Sr. described to you at your Borough Assembly
meeting, any way that you can.

Thank you,

RE Merchant
occupation

We need to send this message out to each and every Assembly member.

My name is STEVE TVENSTRUP and I live at 4828 BEAVER LP
I have lived in Alaska for 41 YEARS years and I am
in support of the commercial fishing industry in the State of
Alaska.

I have requested that the Kenai Borough assist commercial fishers in retaining their historical fishing businesses. Their livelihoods have been severely damaged by the present day Alaska Fish Board. I'm not happy with the current board of fish members

- Dan K. Coffey
- Virgil L. Umphenour
- Grant Miller

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Thank you,

Steve Tvenstrup
4-23-99

occupation

OWNER OPERATOR of
THE ALASKAN LADY

David R. Martin
71605 Sterling Hwy.
Clam Gulch, Ak. 99568
April 26, 1999

House Special Committee of Fisheries

Bill Hudson, Chair

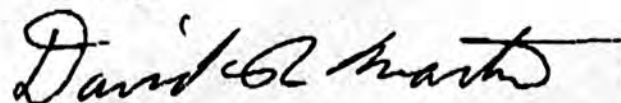
Dear Committee members,

I have been involved in the Boards of Fish and Board of Game local Advisory Committee process for over 20 years. I have been the Chairman of the Central Peninsula Advisory Committee for the past seven years. I am a firm supporter of the local Advisory Committees which were formed to be a channel for the local public to voice their opinions, expertise on local fish and game issues, and their concerns on regulations effecting them, the resource and habitat to the Boards. This has been a good system. Unfortunately the current Board of Fish has neglected and actually fought in opposition to many Advisory Committees Statewide. Check the record for Advisory Committees, other local groups, businesses, governments and even the Fish and Game Departments position on various issues and you will find the BOF often does the exact opposite. This is all to true here in Cook Inlet. One example is Dan Coffey's Board generated, out of cycle, allocation Proposal D three years ago. All the Board members voted to take up this proposal. Not only did it undermine the Advisory Comm. and Board process, it created a burden on the Advisory Comm., the public and the Dept. because of three extra meetings and at a cost of over \$100,000. The end result was an apology from Mr. Coffey, after he fought hard all winter to try to push it through. Gentlemen, this action was not professional, it was not responsible to the Board and Advisory Committee process, and it was not a responsible use of State money.

The Advisory Committee process has really deteriorated in the last three years because of the dictatorship approach the current Board has taken. Several good people and Chairmen have resigned. I hear many volunteer AC members state there frustration and say "what is the use wasting our time and money. The Board already has there minds made up and are going to do what they want to do anyway. There is nothing we can do to stop them. It doesn't even matter what the biology and science says. The Board still does its own thing." These are sad comments about Board of Fish members that are suppose to be creditable stewards of the resource and habitat and be responsible members working with the public not dictating to them.

Gentlemen, it is time for new blood on the Board of Fish. Please do not confirm Dan Coffey, Virgil Umpenhour, or Grant Miller for reappointment. I am alarmed, and you should be too, that this current Board is making regulations that are not based on sound biological and scientific data but ever more so on antidotal information from special interest groups. Habitat, Maximum Sustained Yield management (a Constitution mandate) the people's and the State's economic futures are not being protected. Managing fisheries socially, instead of biologically, has always destroyed salmon runs worldwide. It will happen in Alaska too if we let it. We must protect our great fish resource and the people that depend on it. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,



DATE: April 25, 1999

TO: House Special Committee on Fisheries.
Representatives Hudson, Dyson, Harris, Morgan, Whitaker,
Kapsner, and Smalley

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

SUBJECT: April 26, 1999 Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing

Dear Chairman Hudson and Committee Members,

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

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

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

While conserving habitat and resource, the members of the Board of Fisheries must recognize the needs of subsistence, personal use, sport fishing, commercial sport fishing, and commercial fishing. These board members have worked hard to insure that these needs are met. Please support the confirmation of the reappointments of these current members.

Sincerely,


Bill Stockwell

April 24, 1999

Representative Bill Hudson
Chairman: Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Rm. 108
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hudson,

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You be the judge. Is this the kind of individual who will make intelligent, fair, unbiased decisions that will not only affect the livelihoods but also the

(2)

lives of many coastal Alaskan fishermen and their families? I don't think so.
Do not confirm Mr. Umpenhower!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Bolton", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Skip Bolton

Box 2852

Kodiak, Alaska 99615

907-486-4099/486-2030-FAX

cc: Rep. Alan Austerman
Senator Jerry Mackie



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389
(907) 283-3600 • fax (907) 283-3306 e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

April 20, 1999

APR 20 1999

Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Board of Fisheries Confirmation

Dear Representative members,

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

During the past three years our organization has written to the Legislature, sent POM's, and lobbied individual members with our concerns, criticisms, and requests about both the operation and conduct of the Board of Fisheries. Today, more than before, Alaska's commercial fisheries are in trouble. Specifically, our long-standing historical, economically viable Cook Inlet drift fishery is in serious trouble. Not because the salmon runs have failed, not because the markets have failed, and certainly not because we have failed to reinvest in our own economic future by doing all that was possible to cooperate with and promote the best biological management possible. We are in trouble because of the political-economic, social engineering decisions made by members of our present Board of Fisheries.

The three appointees seeking confirmation have demonstrated by past actions that they are more than willing to carry-out the administration's agenda as to "how" and "who" will profit from the ongoing harvest of Alaska's renewable resources. Unfortunately, the Governor's "vision" for the future is altogether too single minded. In fact, his agenda can also be summed up in one word - tourism. There are thousands of "we Alaskans" who would prefer to continue the multiple use resource economy we have enjoyed in the past, and we are prepared to continue to argue our ideas before the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska State Legislature.

However, we believe and have previously stated, that the makeup of the Board is unfair and, effectively, has given the Governor more power than was intended. In fact, enough power to carry out his personal will as to the "how" and "who" of a subject so critical to

so many people throughout our State. It only takes a majority of four appointees to get the job done for Governor Knowles.

Today, it is your turn to put forth your ideas concerning the economic use of our fishery resource. If you believe that commercial fishing should continue to be an important part of an Alaskan diversified economy, then you must seriously participate in the selection of individuals who will make those decisions for all Alaskans and Alaska's future.

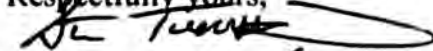
One appointee has proven to be up to the task. Though Mr. Coffey has more than once voted for proposals, which have negatively impacted our fishery, in all good conscience, we cannot doubt his professionalism, concern, and commitment to do his very best as a member of the Board. The Governor, the sport fishery, and the tourism industry have enjoyed excellent representation through the persona of Dan Coffey. He alone has proven capable of mustering enough support within the Board to make sweeping changes to our fisheries' future.

In addition to Mr. Coffey, we ask you to select, through your power of confirmation, at least two bona-fide professional commercial fishermen with a long-standing history and understanding of the importance and value of our commercial fishing industry. This representation on the Board is lacking and, in fact, absent from the process.

We ask you to ensure this representation, not for selfish reasons and, not to ram-rod our position, but rather to allow the thousands of us to go home to our families and once again be able to say that we received fair treatment and our views were adequately represented and argued during the process.

As we have said, the Governor has had his way and the commercial fisheries have suffered the results of his agenda. Now it is your time to remind this administration that there are more opinions than his own about how Alaska will benefit from our renewable resources.

Respectfully yours,



Steve Tvenstrup, 1st Vice President
Bob Merchant, Member, Board of Directors
United Cook Inlet Drift Association

ST/ch

cc: House Fisheries Committee



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

April 22, 1999

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

Representative Bill Hudson
Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hudson,

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

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

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

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Rich Davis
President



COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS
3620 PENLAND PARKWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508
(907) 276-2277 FAX (907) 278-0896

January 27, 1999

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

FEB 09 1999

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

Dear Governor Knowles,

Since statehood, Alaska had never had a finer slate of board members on the Board of Fisheries than it has today. They represent the state wide areas fairly and have been very responsive to the public's wishes.

We strongly urge you to keep this great team in place by reappointing:

Dan Coffey
Grant Miller
and Virgil Umphenour

Our congratulations go to you for assembling the finest Board of Fisheries that our state has ever had.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Penney
Spokesman

cc: Senator Druc Pearce, President, Alaska Senate
cc: Representative Brian Porter, Speaker, Alaska House of Representatives

Mat-Su Sport Fish Caucus

Box 871906 Wasilla, Alaska 99687 373-6555 fax 892-6566

January 28, 1999

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

Dear Governor Knowles,

One of the most difficult and important tasks in Alaska belong to the members of the Board of Fish. The current Board has distinguished itself as the most capable, qualified and fairest Board of Fish since Statehood.

We support reappointing:

Dan Coffey
Grant Miller
and Virgil Umphenour

One of the highlights of the Knowles Administration has been the protection and allocation of our native fish stocks. Your excellent appointments to the Board of Fish have contributed to that effort.

Sincerely,

Robert Hall

Robert Hall
Chairperson

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
JAN 29 1999



Alaska Sportfishing Association

P. O. Box 24-1847 Anchorage, AK 99524-1847

State of Alaska
External Affairs

Recommendations to the Governor for the ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES.

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Sportfishing Association has voted to support the following candidates for the Board of Fisheries:

We enthusiastically support the re appointment of Grant Miller, Dan Coffey, and Virgil Umphenour.

We have watched, listened and been astounded time and time again as the current Board members, including these three fine individuals, work in harmony around the state managing our fisheries. The current Board, under the able chairmanship of Dr. White and assisted by Vice Chair Coffey, have proven that the mandate to manage this resource for the benefit of all Alaskans is indeed achievable. Their forward thinking in leading the way in supporting the Sustainable Fisheries movement in Alaska will benefit future generations of Alaskans.


Phil Cutler, President

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

JAN 29 1999

UNITED SALMON ASSOCIATION*Wild Salmon***Southeast Prince William Sound Kodiak South Peninsula Chignik**

P.O. Box 1669

Cordova, Alaska 99574

(907) 424-3767 phone

(907) 442-3867 fax

April 22, 1999

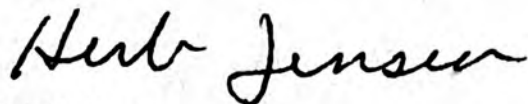
Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Hudson;

United Salmon Association strongly opposes the re-appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries. We feel a member of the board must be able to make unbiased decisions regarding issues that affect us, the second largest income-producing industry in the state of Alaska. The decisions made by the Board of Fisheries have a large affect on our daily lives and livelihoods as small independent fishing families.

We believe you have an opportunity to correct the present imbalance on the Board, and that the Board of Fisheries would benefit from such a change in membership.

Sincerely;



Herb Jensen
Chairman Prince William Sound

cc: Senator Georgiana Lincoln
Representative John Harris



Post Office Box 20761 • Juneau, Alaska 99802

Telephone: (907) 463-3830 • Fax: (907) 586-6020

May 13, 1999

Senator Rick Halford 465-4928
Representative Jerry Sanders 465-3476
Representative Bill Hudson 465-2273
Representative Scott Ogan 465-3265

Dear Legislator:

The Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. urges you to reconfirm Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. These individuals have proven that they can make rational and unbiased decisions on a variety of fishery issues. They have been part of the most logical, rational and unbiased Board of Fisheries that we've worked with in nearly 30 years. They have improved both the integrity of the Board of Fisheries and public confidence in our public regulatory system.

Again, we urge you to reconfirm Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Respectfully,


Mike Bethers
President

May 9, 1999

John (Jack) Hopkins
P.O. Box 343
Cordova, AK 99574

MAY 15 1999

House of Representatives
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment to you regarding the upcoming Board of Fisheries confirmation hearings. I would like to go on record as being opposed to the reappointment of Mr. Umphenour.

I am an Alaskan Native and a lifelong fisherman, both sports and commercial. I would like to respond to a few inflammatory remarks that Mr. Umphenour made at the April 21, 1999 House Resources Committee confirmation hearing.

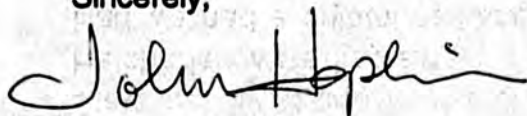
First, about the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) debt: PSWAC, as you probably know, would have been in fine shape if we had not helped the State out by taking over the two hatcheries that the state was having difficulty managing. Hatcheries were implemented because our area was heavily hit by the 1964 earthquake. Had we had a crystal ball and known of the oil spill we may have chosen a different plan.

I do not believe that PSWAC would ever be allowed to produce salmon to the detriment of wild stocks. PWSAC is being watched closely by ADF&G and other state agencies to prevent any harm to the wild stocks. These are the groups that allow us to create the fish we produce.

As far as the Copper River Flats, I have fished them since 1964. I think any person with an inkling of common sense would realize that it is not in the best interest of any commercial fisherman to even think of wiping out the fishery. I hope that we have learned something from the buffalo. We are drift gillnetters on the Copper River, not seiners. We work hard with ADF&G and try to make suggestions to make management easier for them, and to be a part of the team. For these reasons we have experienced record runs of king salmon and sockeye. We would like our children to fish--that is the most important reason to be conservation-minded. We would also like to always be able to eat salmon ourselves since it is the best food in the world.

This is why I am opposed to Mr. Umphenour's reappointment: he is uninformed and he doesn't try to find out the facts. He shouldn't be allowed to be making important decisions for the State or its people. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John (Jack) Hopkins

Subject: Board of Fisheries Hearings on Dan Coffey

Date: Mon, 03 May 1999 10:42:19 -0800

From: susan cutler <scutler@sinbad.net>

To: Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Rep. Hudson,

I just learned that your **Fisheries Subcommittee** will be reviewing the reappointment of **Dan Coffey** to the Board of Fisheries this afternoon. We would like the following entered into the record:

As President of the **Alaska Sportfishing Association**, I would like to advise you and the other members of the committee that we have the upmost respect for Mr. Coffey. Although we didn't always agree with his decisions, he has made us somewhat comfortable by explaining on the record why he was voting the way he did. His high intellect, being a quick study, and his ability to get to the bottom line quickly has provided the Board with one of its best members in my memory. He's a champion of sustained yield management. He makes sure that subsistence has the management priority our constitution decries. He was the leader in the Board's new process which is to allow meeting attendees (the public) to volunteer to serve on committees which discuss and forward recommendations to the Board prior to their deliberations. The new approach enhances public participation in the Board process. His legal background has been beneficial to the Board as he has brought out many nuances that may have prevented the Board being sued and therefore saving the State a lot of legal fee expense.

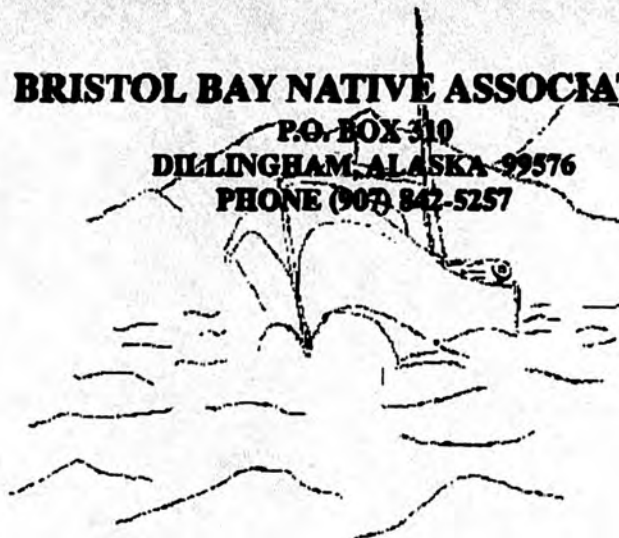
The Alaska Sportfishing Association has endorsed Dan's reappointment and recommends an affirmative recommendation from the Fisheries Committee.

thank you

Phil Cutler, President
907-561-1461

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

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



Tribal Councils
 Served by BBNA:

Alakanagik

April 29, 1999

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Dillingham

Egegik

Eluk

Elwot

Igiugig

Ilamna

Ivanof Bay

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levick

Manokotak

Naknek

New Smythok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

State Representative Bill Hudson
 State Capitol (MS 3100)
 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hudson;

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

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

Please work toward his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Terry Hoeflerle
 Chief of Operations

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310 Dillingham, AK 99576 (907) 842-5257
Toll Free (Alaska Only) 1-800-478-5257 Fax: (907) 842-5932

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 4/30/99
TO: Bill Hudson
FAX: 465-2273
SENDER: Terry H NH

RE: _____

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 2 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL (907) 842-5257.

HARD COPY WILL FOLLOW IN MAIL ON THIS DATE: _____

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FAX: (907) 842-2388

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1-800-478-4139
FAX: (907) 842-4106



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389
(907) 283-3600 • fax (907) 283-3306 e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

H. 112 share with comm. members!

April 23, 1999

APR 29 1999

Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Board of Fisheries Confirmation

Dear Representative Hudson,

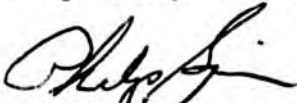
In a follow-up to our letter dated April 20, 1999, we would like to clarify the United Cook Inlet Drift Association's position. We recommend that the Legislature withhold the reconfirmation of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller & Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries.

UCIDA appreciates the hard working commitment required to serve on the Board of Fisheries and appreciates the willingness of all three appointees to serve another term. It has been our position, however, that the current Board is geographically and experientially unbalanced and does not serve the best interests of the state's largest employer, commercial fishing.

These three appointees have already sat on two regular cycle Cook Inlet meetings and three Board approved special meetings. If reconfirmed, they would sit on at least one more regular Cook Inlet meeting and be a part of a full decade of policy making for Cook Inlet. There has always been the tacit understanding that a Board member should serve no more than two terms.

The last three years of Board meetings on Cook Inlet issues have been very frustrating, time consuming, and expensive for commercial fishing in Cook Inlet. It is extremely important to the health and survival of commercial fishing in Cook Inlet to return balance to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We respectfully request you use this opportunity to do so.

Respectfully Yours,


Philip Squires
President UCIDA


Steve Tvenstrup
Vice President UCIDA