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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

March 13, 2015

Mr. Brian Fredieu
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Fredieu:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, I am pleased to submit my nominations for an obligatory seat from the State of Alaska on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), expiring August 10, 2015. As discussed below, I have nominated individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced in the harvest, conservation, and management of fishery resources and who also provide representation for minority groups.

After reviewing the requirements of the Act and consulting with commercial and recreational fishing interests in Alaska, I nominate the individuals listed below for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce:

Seat 1: Small Boat Commercial Representative
Daniel Hull
Michael (Buck) Laukitis
Paul Gronholdt

Seat 2: Recreational Fisher Representative
Andrew Mezirow
Richard Yamada
Arthur Nelson

For the Small Boat Commercial Representative seat, I select Mr. Daniel Hull as my preferred nominee for consideration. As required by the Act, I am submitting two alternate nominees that can be considered in Mr. Laukitis and Mr. Gronholdt.

For the Recreational Fisher Representative seat, I select Mr. Andrew Mezirow as my preferred nominee for consideration. The two alternate nominees to be considered are Mr. Yamada and Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Daniel Hull has been a member of the Council since 2009. A commercial fisherman for over 30 year, he currently owns and operates a halibut and sablefish longline and salmon gillnet vessel out of

Cordova, Alaska. He is a member of several committees including the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the North Pacific Research Board, the Management Strategy Advisory Board, the Bering Sea Fisheries Advisory Body, and the National Electronic Monitoring Workshop Steering Committee. Mr. Hull holds a Masters of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington.

Mr. Michael (Buck) Laukitis, of Homer, has commercially fished in Alaska since 1987. He became a boat owner in 1990 and began a family-owned business that fishes in the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and Aleutian Islands. He is an IFQ halibut and sablefish fisherman. Mr. Laukitis was president of the North Pacific Fisheries Association in Homer for 12 years. As such, he represented the association on the International Pacific Halibut Commission's Advisory Committee. He is also on the Board of Trustees for the Homer Foundation, a community philanthropic foundation. Mr. Laukitis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Colorado College.

Mr. Paul Gronholdt lives in Sand Point. He has worked as a commercial fisherman since 1963. He is a United States Army veteran and worked for two years as a State of Alaska Fish and Wildlife Officer. In 1980 he purchased a combination fishing vessel which he continues to operate. He also serves as the Administrator for the Shumagin Corporation, an Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act village corporation. Mr. Gronholdt is a member of several other boards including the Aleutians East Borough Assembly, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors, the Sand Point Alaska City Council, the Outer Continental Shelf Policy Committee, the Peninsula Marketing Association, the United Fishermen of Alaska Board of Directors, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute Quality Committee, and is the Alaskan Advisor to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Mr. Gronholdt attended the University of Washington and is a graduate of the Alaska State Trooper Academy.

Mr. Andrew Mezirow, of Seward, has owned and operated Crackerjack Sportfishing Charters since 1996. Prior to that, he worked as the Chief Officer of the University of Alaska Research Vessel Alpha Helix. He is also employed as the Maritime Safety Instructor for the State of Alaska at AVTEC in Seward. Mr. Mezirow has been on several related committees supporting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council including the Advisory Panel, Charter Halibut Implementation Committee, Compensate Reallocation Working Group, Charter GHL Implementation Committee and the Charter IFQ Implementation Committee. He has also been a member of the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Group and worked for the State of Alaska on the Guide Services Board Development Committee. Mr. Mezirow holds a Bachelor's of Science in Marine Biology and a minor in Fisheries Management from the Putney School in Vermont.

Mr. Richard Yamada, of Juneau, has been involved in Alaska's recreational fishery for over 30 years. He owns Shelter Lodge – a sportfishing lodge – and is a USCG licensed captain. Mr. Yamada is a member of the Juneau/Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee and is the President of the Alaska Charter Association. He is also a member of the Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association, the Alaska Outdoor Council, the National Association of Charterboat Operators, the NOAA MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Work group, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Charter Halibut Implementation Committee. Mr.

Mr. Brian Fredieu
NPFMC Nominations
March 13, 2015
Page 3

Yamada served in the United States Air Force as a Russian linguist. He attended the University of Hawaii.

Mr. Arthur Nelson is the Executive Director of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. He grew up fishing commercially for salmon in the Prince William Sound. As a young man he worked for the Kawerak Native Association as a Fisheries Specialist, managing projects that counted salmon escapement. Later he did much the same work for the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. Mr. Nelson has been a member on the Advisory Panel to the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission, the Alaska Board of Fisheries Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel and is Chairman of the Steering Committee for Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative. Mr. Nelson studied biology at the University of Alaska.

Enclosed you will find a list of commercial and recreational fishing groups who have provided input in my nomination of these knowledgeable and qualified individuals. The nominees provide balanced and insightful experience for the NPFMC and will contribute greatly to fisheries management and conservation in the North Pacific. I appreciate your consideration of these nominees.

Regards,



Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Sam Cotten, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Kip Knudson, Director of State and Federal Relations, Office of the Governor

List of Commercial and, Recreational Fishing Groups Providing Input for my Nominations:

Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association
Aleutians East Borough
Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association
Association of Village Council Presidents
At-Sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
City of Cordova, Mayor
Cordova District Fishermen United
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
Coastal Villages Region Fund
Executive Director of North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Former Council Member
Golden Kin Crab Coalition
Groundfish DataBank
Homer Charter Association
Kawerak, Incorporated
Kenai River Sportfishing Association
Marine Conservation Alliance
North Pacific Fisheries Association
North Pacific Fishery Management Council and United States Fish and Wildlife Service members
North Pacific Research Board
Former Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Ocean Peace, Inc.
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition
Prince William Sound Eco-Charters
Pro Fish-n-Sea Charters
Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance
United Catcher Boats
United Fishermen of Alaska
United Fishermen's Marketing Association
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association