

**Department of Fish and Game**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8th Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526  
Main: 907.465.4100  
Fax: 907.465.2332



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

January 7, 2016

Mr. Dan Hull, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Chairman Hull:

I would like to nominate Miranda Westphal for appointment to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Plan Team to replace Heather Fitch, who has recently left her position with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Miranda recently accepted the position of BSAI area management biologist in Dutch Harbor within the Commercial Fisheries Division, after having served as assistant area management biologist since mid-2014. Her position oversees management of fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, which includes crab, groundfish, scallop, and subsistence fishery species. Additionally, Ms. Westphal monitors fishery performance, sets annual catch limits, and oversees the dockside sampling program.

Please see the attached curriculum vitae with Ms. Westphal's extensive experience. I believe she will be a valuable asset to the BSAI Crab Plan Team. Thank you for considering her appointment at the upcoming February 2016 Council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. COTTEN".

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

Miranda Joan Westphal

P.O. Box 920440  
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692  
(907) 321-4045  
miranda.westphal@alaska.gov

## EDUCATION

---

August 2011      Master of Science, Fisheries  
                         University of Alaska Fairbanks, Juneau, AK

April 2007        Bachelor of Arts, Marine Science, *summa cum laude*  
                         Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL

May 2004          Associate in Science, Math and Science  
                         Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI

## EXPERIENCE

---

December 2015 to      Fisheries Biologist III  
present                      State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game  
   December 2015–present  
   Area Management Biologist  
   (Dutch Harbor, AK)

July 2014 to            Fisheries Biologist II  
December 2015              State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game  
   July 2014–April 2015  
   Assistant Area Management Biologist, groundfish  
   (Dutch Harbor, AK)  
   April 2015–December 2015  
   Assistant Area Management Biologist, shellfish  
   (Dutch Harbor, AK)

January 2012 to        Fisheries Biologist II  
October 2013                State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game  
   January 2013–October 2013  
   Assistant Shellfish Research Biologist  
   (Kodiak, AK)  
   January 2012–January 2013  
   Assistant Statewide Mariculture Coordinator  
   (Juneau, AK)

- May 2008 to August 2011      Research Assistantship  
Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks,  
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Juneau, AK
- Thesis title:    Growth physiology of juvenile red king crab,  
*Paralithodes camtschaticus*, in Alaska  
Co-advisors:    Dr. Ginny L. Eckert and Dr. Sherry L. Tamone
- May 2006 to August 2006      Research Internship  
National Science Foundation Research Experience for  
Undergraduates, College of William and Mary,  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester, VA
- Project title:    Diet of juvenile blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*, in  
shallow-water nurseries in response to large-scale  
variations in benthic communities  
Mentor:          Dr. Rochelle D. Seitz
- November 2005 to May 2006      Research Assistant Internship  
Florida Gulf Coast University,  
Coastal Watershed Institute, Fort Myers, FL
- Duties:          Working with Eastern oysters, *Crassostrea virginica*. Field spat collections, field density counts, daily husbandry of laboratory specimens, oyster dissection and preparation for health and condition analysis, collection of oyster reef community species, facilitating community-based restoration project, maintenance of field equipment, small boats and vehicles.  
Advisor:          Dr. Aswani Voley
- September 2002 to May 2004      Head Laboratory Assistant  
Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI
- Duties:          preparation and clean up of laboratory sessions,  
growing and sustaining bacteriological cultures,  
feeding and daily upkeep of all laboratory specimens, ordering and maintaining stock, scheduling and supervision of laboratory assistants.  
Supervisor:      Dr. William Nevers

## MANUSCRIPTS

---

**Westphal, M.J.** and Eckert, G.L. (*in prep*). Comparison of first year growth of juvenile red king crab, *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, and juvenile blue king crab, *Paralithodes platypus*, in Alaska. *Journal of Crustacean Biology*.

**Westphal, M.J.**, Eckert, G.L., Tamone, S.L. (2014). Comparison of first-year growth between hatchery-raised, wild-caught and field-surveyed juvenile red king crab, *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, in Alaska. *Journal of Crustacean Biology* 34(3), 319-325.

Seitz, R.D., Knick, K.E., **Westphal, M.J.** (2011). Diet selectivity of juvenile blue crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*) in Chesapeake Bay. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 1 – 10.

#### TECHNICAL REPORT

---

**Westphal, Miranda J.** July 2006. Photographs of various known prey items in the foregut of juvenile blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*, in lower Chesapeake Bay. VIMS Library.

#### PRESENTATIONS

---

November 2012	Oral presentation	Sea Grant Advisory Committee, Anchorage, AK <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> Growth of juvenile king crab in Alaska.
November 2012	Poster Presentation	AK Shellfish Growers Association. Ketchikan, AK ADF&G. Mariculture in the state of Alaska.
December 2010	Oral presentation	Interagency Crab Meeting, Anchorage, AK. <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , Eckert, G.L., Tamone, S.L. Growth physiology of juvenile red king crab, <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> .
November 2010	Oral presentation	Western Society of Naturalists, San Diego, CA. <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , Eckert, G.L., Tamone, S.L. Growth physiology of juvenile red king crab, <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> , in the laboratory and field.
November 2010	Oral presentation	American Fisheries Society, Alaska Chapter, Juneau, AK <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , Tamone, S.L., Eckert, G.L. Growth Physiology of Juvenile Red King Crab <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> Reared Under Laboratory Conditions.
April 2010	Oral presentation	American Fisheries Society Student Symposium, Juneau, AK <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , Eckert, G.L., Tamone, S.L. Growth physiology of juvenile red king crab, <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> .
March 2010	Oral presentation	Aquaculture 2010, San Diego, CA <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , Eckert G.L., Tamone S.L. Growth physiology of juvenile red king crab, <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> .

December 2009	Oral presentation	Interagency Crab Meeting, Anchorage, AK <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , Eckert, G.L. Growth physiology of juvenile red king crab, <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> .
March 2009	Poster presentation	Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, Anchorage, AK <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , S.L. Tamone and G.L. Eckert. Comparative growth physiology of wild caught and hatchery reared juvenile Alaska red king crab ( <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> ).
August 2007	Poster Presentation	Ecological Society of America's Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> and Seitz, R.D. Diet of the Juvenile Blue Crab, <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> , in Shallow-water Nurseries in Response to Large- scale Variations in Benthic Communities.
March 2007	Poster Presentation	Geological Society of America, 56 <sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Section Meeting, Savannah, GA <b>Westphal, M.J.</b> , Linsin, S.R., Andresen, M.M., Harris, R.J., Hoyer, B.R., Kline, H.E., Linardich, C.M., Mabe, A.C., McConnell, M.N., and Savarese, M. Ecological succession within a Holocene oyster reef: An indicator of estuary development in Southwest Florida.

#### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

---

November 2015	Unalaska Library Science Night, Presenter
April 2013	Ocean Science Discovery Laboratory, Guest Scientist
October 2010 to March 2011	Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair, Mentor
June 2010	ADF&G Southeast Alaska Bioblitz, Intertidal Ecologist
March 2009	Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair, Judge
February 2007	Florida Gulf Coast University's Eagle Expo, campus guide
February 2007 to April 2007	Save the World Project, American Assistance for Cambodia, Co-Chair
February 2007	First Baptist Academy Science Fair, Judge
Spring 2007 to	

Miranda J. Westphal

Summer 2007	FGCU Marine Club, Secretary
June 2006	FGCU Marine Club's 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Estero River Kayak Clean-up, coordinator and volunteer leader
June 2006	National Coastal Clean-up Day, participant
Fall 2006 to Spring 2007	FGCU Marine Club, Vice-President
Fall 2006	Florida Gulf Coast University Marine Club, co-founder
June 2005	FGCU Oyster Reef Restoration, facilitator and participant
July 2005	FGCU Oyster Reef Restoration, facilitator and participant

## SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

---

### Software Proficiencies

- Adobe Acrobat Pro
- ArcGIS
- EndNote
- JMP Statistical Software
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Sigma Plot
- OceanAK

### Training

- Boating safety and handling
- CPR and First Aid (continual certification since 2001)
- Crustacean ELISA
- Oxygen First Aid for SCUBA diving injuries (2009–2012)
- qPCR for the detection of PSP
- SCUBA open water
- State of Alaska Peace Officer (May 2013, Badge 469)
- State of Alaska Hiring Manager Training

## AWARDS

---

### Aquaculture 2010 Student Travel Award

\$600.00 award: For presenting at Aquaculture 2010, San Diego, CA

### Ecological Society of America's REU Competitive Travel Grant

\$1,000.00 award: For travel to the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, San Jose, CA

Florida Gulf Coast University's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

\$300.00 award: For travel to the 2007 Annual Southeastern Section Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Savannah, GA

Geological Society of America Student Travel Award

\$80.00 award: For travel to the 2007 Annual Southeastern Section Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Savannah, GA

Save the Bay Foundation's Bill Lazear Book Award

\$250.00 award: Nomination of two students annually by FGCU's Marine Science faculty

#### HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

---

Best Student Poster Award	2009 Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, Anchorage, AK
Best REU Student Poster Award	2007 Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, San Jose, CA
Graduation with highest honors	<i>summa cum laude</i> from Florida Gulf Coast University
2006 Coastal America Partnership Award	Florida Gulf Coast University's Oyster Reef Restoration Project
FGCU's President's List (GPA 4.0)	Spring 2007, Fall 2006, Spring 2006, Fall 2005
Washtenaw Community College Dean's List (GPA 3.5 or above)	Fall 2003
Washtenaw Community College Dean's High Honor Roll (GPA 3.8 or above)	Fall 2001