



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**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

January 20, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Hull:

I would like to nominate Ben Williams for appointment to the Scallop Plan Team to replace Greg Rosenkranz, who has recently retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Ben is a fisheries scientist for the department, with statewide responsibilities relative to the groundfish and scallop fisheries. This position serves as a liaison between state and federal fishery groundfish and scallop stock assessment authors, coordinating research, participating in cooperative reviews of stock assessments, and commenting at plan team, Council, and Board of Fisheries meetings. This position also aligns statewide groundfish and scallop research to effectively address data needs identified by these entities. Additionally, this position serves as the statewide scallop biometrician and directly supervises two Biometrician III positions in the Commercial Fisheries Division.

Please see the attached CV. With Ben's stock assessment expertise, I believe he will be a valuable asset to the Scallop Plan Team. Thank you for considering his appointment at the upcoming February 2016 Council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Cotten".

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

Enclosure

## Benjamin Williams

Alaska Dept of Fish and Game  
1255 W 8th St  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-6350  
bcwilliams2@alaska.edu

### EDUCATION

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Ph.D. *Candidate*, Fisheries, 2011-present.  
University of Alaska Fairbanks, M.S., Fisheries, 2003.  
The Ohio State University, B.S., Natural Resources, Minor in Fisheries, 1996.

### FELLOWSHIPS

MESAS: Marine Ecosystem Sustainability in the Arctic and Subarctic a Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) National Science Foundation program. - 2011  
Rasmuson Fisheries Research Center Graduate Student Fellowship Award. - 2014

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Groundfish Fisheries Scientist I**, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, AK, 2014 - present. *Responsibilities*: Lead and supervise the Commercial Fisheries Division's research program to support state and federal fishery management plans for groundfish and scallop fisheries. Supervise commercial fisheries biometrics staff.

**Doctoral Student**, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2011 - present. Thesis: Implications of variability in reproductive biology on management of the fishery for walleye pollock *Gadus chalcogrammus* in the Gulf of Alaska. Advisor Dr. Gordon Kruse.

**Student Internship**, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, AK. 2012. Summarizing the BSAI and GOA Groundfish Fishery Management Plans.

**Senior Fisheries Biologist**, LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc., Anchorage, AK 2004 - 2011. *Responsibilities*: Coordinate with NGOs, industry, federal, and state agencies to design, and implement fisheries research activities in support of area management or resource development. Develop operational plans, hire, train, and evaluate staff, prepare and monitor budgets, assess data quality, data analysis, report writing, and presentations to diverse stakeholder groups.

**Graduate Student**, University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Juneau, AK 2000 - 2003. Thesis: Growth dynamics of juvenile yellowfin sole (*Pleuronectes asper*) and northern rock sole (*Lepidopsetta polyxystra*) in the eastern Bering Sea. Advisors: Dr. Terry Quinn II and Dr. Lewis Haldorson.

**Groundfish Observer**, National Marine Fisheries Service, Anchorage, AK 1999 - 2000. Observer eastern Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska.

**Fisheries Technician**, United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Tunison Laboratory, Cortland, NY 1997 - 1999.

### RECENT REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

Williams, B. C., G. H. Kruse and M. Dorn. *In review*. Spatial variability in maturity of walleye pollock and implications on harvest strategies in the Gulf of Alaska.

Williams, B. C., T. J. Quinn II, and L. J. Haldorson. *In prep*. A retrospective analysis of juvenile yellowfin sole *Pleuronectes asper* and northern rock sole *Lepidopsetta polyxystra* growth in the

eastern Bering Sea.

Hunt, G. L. Jr., P. Ressler, K. Aydin, G. Gibson, M. Sigler, A. DeRobertis, E. Lessard, B. Williams, A. Pinchuk, T. Buckley. 2016. Euphausiids in the eastern Bering Sea: A synthesis of recent studies of euphausiid production, consumption and population control, Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography, Available online 12 November 2015, ISSN 0967-0645, doi:10.1016/j.dsr2.2015.10.007.

Tribuzio, C. A., Echave, K. B., Green, K., Williams, B. C., and Hulson, P., 2015. Appendix A. Other Rockfish and Demersal Shelf Rockfish Stock Assessment Tasks in the Gulf of Alaska. *In*: Evaluation of stock structure for the Other Rockfish and Demersal Shelf Rockfish complexes in the Gulf of Alaska by Echave, K. B., Tribuzio, C. A., and Green, K. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, AK.

Williams, B. C. 2015. Scallop Observer Data Summary, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Juneau, Alaska. 89 pgs.

Williams, B. C. and C. Lean. 2011. 2010 Abundance of coho salmon smolts from the Nome River, Alaska. Report prepared for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative by LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc. and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Williams, B. (2015, October - two days) Dynamic Documents and Reproducible Research. Teaching Fish 627 class University of Alaska Fairbanks, Juneau School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

Williams, B. (2015, April). Walleye Pollock reproductive potential in the Gulf of Alaska. Fisheries Research and Management Symposium (Invited), NOAA/AFSC, Juneau, AK.

Williams, B., Kruse, G., & Dorn, M. (2014, February). Sampling design influences on estimates of walleye pollock maturity rates in the Gulf of Alaska. Presentation at the 18th Western Groundfish Conference, Victoria, British Columbia.

Williams, B., Kruse, G., & Dorn, M. (2014, January). Sampling design influences on estimates of walleye pollock maturity rates in the Gulf of Alaska. Presentation at the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center annual meeting, Anchorage, Alaska.

Williams B. (2013, August). The reproductive biology and management of walleye pollock. MESAS Fall Retreat. Nome, AK.

Williams, B., Kruse, G., & Dorn, M. (2013, January). Variations in walleye pollock maturation rates in the Gulf of Alaska. Poster presented at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Anchorage, AK.

Williams, B., Kruse, G., & Dorn, M. (2012, October). Variations in walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) maturation rates in the Gulf of Alaska. Presentation at the American Fisheries Society - Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting, Kodiak, AK.

Williams, B., Kruse, G., & Dorn, M. (2012, October). Variations in walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) maturation rates in the Gulf of Alaska. Presentation at the North Pacific Marine Science Organization Annual Meeting, Hiroshima, Japan.

Williams, B., Nemeth, M., & Lean, C. (2011, October). High latitude coho salmon smolts: Observations from the Nome River, AK. University of Alaska Fairbanks Seminar, Juneau, AK.