



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

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May 5, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Hull:

I would like to nominate Mr. Ben Williams for appointment to the Council's GOA Groundfish Plan Team to replace Kristin Green, who has taken a new position within the department. Mr. Williams is a fisheries scientist with statewide responsibilities for groundfish and scallop fisheries. Ben is currently completing his doctoral dissertation and has considerable knowledge regarding groundfish stock dynamics in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Mr. Williams has also worked as a federal groundfish observer, has attended Groundfish Plan Team meetings, and understands the unique overlap and management considerations between state and federal groundfish fisheries. With his interest and experience, Mr. Williams will be a valuable addition to the GOA Groundfish Plan Team.

Thank you for considering his appointment at the upcoming June 2016 Council meeting, attached is his CV for your review.

Sincerely,

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

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

Benjamin Williams

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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., Cheng, W., Dorn, M., Kruse, G., Logerwell, E., and Neidetcher, S. (2016, March). Walleye Pollock reproductive potential in the Gulf of Alaska. Presentation to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Juneau School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

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.