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**Governor Bill Walker**  
**STATE OF ALASKA**

March 9, 2016

Ms. Eileen Sobeck  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

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 two obligatory seats from the State of Alaska on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) expiring August 10, 2016. 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  
**Theresa Peterson**  
Eric Olson  
Paul Gronholdt

Seat 2  
**Michael "Buck" Laukitis**  
Linda Behnken  
Art Nelson

I select Ms. Theresa Peterson and Mr. Michael "Buck" Laukitis as my preferred nominees for consideration. As required by the Act, I am submitting two alternate nominees that can be considered for each seat in Mr. Eric Olson, Mr. Paul Gronholdt, Ms. Linda Behnken and Mr. Art Nelson.

Ms. Theresa Peterson has been a commercial and subsistence fisherman for over thirty years. She currently serves as an Advisory Panel Member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Her other memberships include the Alaska Jig Association, the Community Fish Network, and as the Outreach Coordinator for the Alaska Marine Conservation Council. Theresa studied Linguistics and Political Science at the University of California.

Mr. Michael "Buck" Laukitis is a commercial fisherman and the owner of Magic Fish Company and Compass Rose Properties. He helped to develop the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan in 2014. Mr. Laukitis has a United States Coast Guard 100 Ton Masters License. He is also a

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longstanding member of the Board of Trustees for the Homer Foundation, whose mission is to promote philanthropic and charitable activities. Mr. Laukitis has a degree in Philosophy from Colorado College.

Ms. Linda Behnken is the Executive Director of Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association. She is also a previous member of North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Ms. Behnken is a member of the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust and the Halibut Coalition. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Mr. Paul Gronholdt is a member of the Oagan Tayagungin Tribe and has been a commercial fisherman for over thirty five years.

Mr. Eric Olson is a member of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and a former manager of the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association. He has fished commercially for nearly forty years. He is a previous member of the North Pacific Research Board.

Mr. Art 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 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 Panels, 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 that 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.

Sincerely,



Bill Walker  
Governor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Sam Cotton, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game  
Nathan Butzlaff, Associate Director of State and Federal Relations, Office of the Governor

**List of commercial and recreational fishing groups providing input for my nominations:**

Afognak Native Corporation  
Alaska Federation of Natives  
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank  
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association  
Alaska Marine Conservation Council  
Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association  
At-Sea Processors Association  
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation  
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
City of Larsen Bay  
City of Old Harbor  
City of Saint Paul  
Halibut Coalition  
International Seafoods of Alaska  
Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope  
Kaguyak Village Council  
Kawerak, Inc.  
K-Bay Fisheries Association  
Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum  
Kodiak Island Borough  
Koniag, Inc.  
Native Village of Port Lions  
North Pacific Fisheries Association  
North Pacific Research Board  
North Pacific Seafoods  
Ocean Beauty Seafoods  
Ocean Peace, Inc.  
Old Harbor Native Corporation  
Pacific Seafood Processors Association  
Pelagic Resources, Inc.  
Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc.  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
United Fishermen of Alaska