



March 7, 2010

Office of Governor Sean Parnell  
Attention: Jason Hooley  
Director, Boards and Commissions  
PO Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001  
Via email to: [jason.hooley@alaska.gov](mailto:jason.hooley@alaska.gov)

**Re: Support Ben Ellis Nomination to North Pacific Fisheries Management Council**

Dear Mr. Hooley:

The Southeast Alaska Guides Organization, (SEAGO), represents a comprehensive group of charter fishing operators, lodge owners, and our clients. Our mission is to promote the tradition of sport fishing in Southeast Alaska through reasonable regulations that ensure the long-term sustainability of our businesses and fisheries. Sportfishing in Southeast hosts 100,000 anglers and creates \$300M income and 3,000+ jobs annually.

For many years sportfishing interests have been under-represented at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC). For example, currently 10 of the 11 members have commercial fishing backgrounds. Further, there are several critical programs currently under review including changes to the 2010 Moratorium and the 2011 Catch Share Plan, where we believe that sportfishing interests need a fair voice. With that in mind, SEAGO strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Ben Ellis for an upcoming opening on the North Council.

Mr. Ellis has been actively involved in recreational and commercial fishing issues in Alaska for more than 20 years. He is very familiar with the fisheries' management processes at both federal and state level. At the federal level he served on the NPFMC's Advisory Panel for eight years and completed an interim term on the Council in 2003. At the state level, he served as the Co-chair of the Board of Fisheries working group that developed the State of Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Policy in 1997 and also served as the Co-chair of Fisheries on the Governor's Transition Team in 1994.

In addition, he has extensive management experience, including serving as Executive Director at both the Institute of the North and the Alaska Sea Life Center, and he was the founding Executive Director of Kenai River Sportfishing Association. Each position required him to support diverse interest groups and to make detailed analyses and recommendations for many issues related to fisheries management, including those under management of the NPFMC. In addition, he authored multiple policy documents including: "Conflict of Interest Standards & Regional Fishery Management Councils", an evaluation of the North Pacific Council's voting record on conservation issues in January, 2008, the "Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment" for the Arctic Council in 2009,



and “Viability of Sakhalin - Alaska - Alberta Commercial Aviation Links”, December 2005 which was credited as the basis for a new seasonal air route between Alaska and the Russian Far East .

Mr. Ellis has a long history of experience and in-depth knowledge of the Council process, and he understands the challenges faced in Alaska’s commercial and recreational fishing industries. Given his diverse background, we believe he is well qualified to serve on the Council.

We respectfully request that you support the appointment of Ben Ellis to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Blair".

John A. Blair  
Executive Director  
Southeast Alaska Guides Organization  
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[john@seagoalaska.org](mailto:john@seagoalaska.org)

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