



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 4th 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