

Cowper seeks board nominees

Gov. Steve Cowper has asked nearly 250 fisheries gear groups, user groups and Native and environmental organizations for suggestions to fill six current and upcoming vacancies on the state Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game.

In a letter to groups affected by board decisions, Cowper asked for "people who are able to rise above parochial interests" and who can "make decisions which are based on scientific opinion and the fair interpretation of data provided to the board."

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The letter was mailed earlier this month.

The request for nominees was prompted in part by the recent resignations of three Board of Fisheries members, Ron Jolin of Kodiak, Jeri Museth of Douglas and John Garner of Juneau. The terms of all three expire Jan. 31.

A fourth member of the board, Jesse Foster of Quinhagak, submitted his resignation in November contingent on the governor's acceptance of it. So far, Cowper has not accepted Foster's resignation.

In addition, the terms of three members of the Board of Game expire at the end of this month. They include Joel Bennett of Juneau, Sidney Huntington of Galena and Nicholas Jackson of Gakona.

Cowper said some of the board members could be reappointed, but he wanted the suggestions of Alaskans directly affected by board decisions before making any appointment to either board.

The names, resumes and recommendations of possible board members are due to the Boards and Commissions staff in the governor's office by 4:30 p.m., Jan. 30. All resumes and recommendations are public record.