

# 2019 Speaker Bios

## Dunleavy Administration

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**Ben A. Stevens**, Policy Advisor

*Office of Governor Michael J. Dunleavy*

Mr. Stevens is focusing on Public Safety, Economic Development, and Transportation for the Governor's office. Former President of Cook Inlet Tug and Barge, Inc, a subsidiary of the Foss Maritime Company, Mr. Stevens also served in the Alaska State Legislature as Majority Leader and President of the Alaska State Senate. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of SEMCO Energy and a member of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute Board of Directors. As a lifelong Alaskan resident, Mr. Stevens worked many years in the Bristol Bay Salmon fishery and the Bering Sea Crab fisheries. He holds a Merchant Marine Masters License, a Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University, and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University. Mr. Stevens, his wife Elizabeth, and their four children live in Anchorage.

Email: [ben.stevens@alaska.gov](mailto:ben.stevens@alaska.gov)



## U.S. Census Bureau

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**Charmaine V. Ramos**, Partnerships Specialist

*U.S. Census Bureau*

Ms. Ramos is Tlingit. She is Raven moiety, Copper River Clan, and from the Owl House. Her father is Coho Clan. She was born and raised in Southeast Alaska and currently lives in Anchorage. Charmaine works for the U.S. Census Bureau as a Partnerships Specialist and is tasked with building and maintaining relationships with governments, businesses, and organizations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to prepare for the 2020 Census. She loves to travel with her daughter, Nirvana. They recently attended the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang. Email: [Charmaine.V.Ramos@census.gov](mailto:Charmaine.V.Ramos@census.gov)



## Legislative Update

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**Gary Stevens**, Legislative District P

*Alaska State Senate*

From Alaska State Senate to Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and Rotary International, Gary Stevens has been involved with a variety of institutions in both the public and private sector. He served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 2001-2003 and was the Senate President from 2009-2013. Currently he is Chair of Senate Education and Senate Legislative Council and a member of Senate Judiciary (Fin Sub), Senate University of Alaska (Fin Sub), Senate Education and Early Development (Fin Sub) and Senate Health and Social Services.

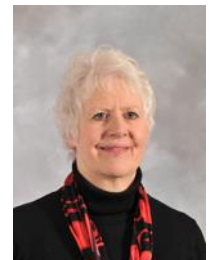
Email: [Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov)



**Louise Stutes**, Legislative District 32

*Alaska State House*

Representing coastal communities from Tyonek to Yakutat, Seldovia, Cordova, and Kodiak Island, Louise Stutes understands the importance of transportation infrastructure and the fishing industry for rural Alaskans. She is a retired business owner and previously served on the Kodiak Assembly, regional fisheries advisory boards, and SWAMC's Board of Directors. Louise is the Majority Whip and is Vice-Chair House Legislative Council, Chair of House Fisheries, Co-Chair House Transportation, and member of the House Committee on Committees, House Labor and Commerce, House Judiciary, House Rules and House Select Committee on Legislative Ethics. Email: [Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov)



**Lyman Hoffman, Legislative District S**

*Alaska State Senate*

Senator Hoffman graduated from Bethel High School and obtained a degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska. Hoffman served as State Senator from 1991-92, and from 1995-present. He has also been Deputy director of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Hoffman has been a former owner of North Star Gas; owner of Bethel Drilling & Welding; Finance committee member of Orutsararmiut Native Council; and Member of the Lower Kuskokwim Development Hoffman is Chair on Senate Education and Early Development (Fin Sub), Chair Senate University of Alaska (Fin Sub). A member of Senate Legislative Council, Senate Legislative Budget and Audit, Senate community and Regional Affairs and Senate Finance. He is married with two children. Email: [Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)



**Bryce Edgmon, Legislative District 37**

*Alaska State House*

Representative Edgmon has represented the 37th District since 2006. He is the first Alaskan Native in the history of the state to hold the position of Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives, a position he has held since 2017. He is Chair of House Committee on Committees and a member of: House Fisheries, House Legislative Council, and House Rules. Email: [Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov)



*Drones: Racing for Education*

**Steve Colligan, President**

*Alaska Drone Racing League (AKDRL)*

Academy of Model Aeronautic (AMA), Government Affairs Coordinator – Alaska President of Alaska Drone Racing League (AKDRL). Steve is a lifelong Alaskan born and raised in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Steve has been a leader in Alaska in technology integration and Digital Mapping for 30 years and small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS) for 8 years. Email: [admin@akdrl.org](mailto:admin@akdrl.org)

**Mark Slack, Vice-President and Director**

*Alaska Drone Racing League and AKDRL Multi GP*

Mark is a former U.S. Marine, bus driver for People Mover, and real estate investor. Mark is one of the founders of the Alaska Drone Racing Concept who is constantly researching new technologies that change drone racing on a weekly basis.

**Wes Freimuth, Director and President**

*Alaska Drone Racing League and AKDRL Multi-GP*

Wes is manager/station operations for Alaska Airlines and an avid drone racing enthusiast. Wes is a technical lead in AKDRL’s STEM education outreach program coordinating many educational presentations at local schools and events. Wes is the technical lead with National Multi-GP program leadership.

*Fisheries Impact on Communities*

**Dan O’Hara, Mayor**

*Bristol Bay Borough*

Mr. O’Hara was born and raised in Pile Bay on Lake Iliamna. He attended Simpson Bible College and Holgate Aircraft School. He was a commercial fisherman in Egegik for 40 years. He has served 13 years with the Seafood Marketing Institute, 12 years on North Pacific Fisheries Management Advisory panel, 31 years on the BBNC board, 3 terms on the BBB School Board, and 12 years on the BBB Assembly. He is currently serving his fourth term as mayor. He is a commercial pilot with 24,000 hours of flight. He founded Tanalian Bible Camp and pastored church for 40 years. He has been a business owner of Bay Marine Surveyors for 38 years. Married, he has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Email: [baymarinesurveyors99633@gmail.com](mailto:baymarinesurveyors99633@gmail.com)



**Garrett Evridge, Economist**

*McDowell Group*

Mr. Evridge, a life-long Kodiak resident, plays a significant role in a wide variety of McDowell Group's fisheries and maritime projects. During his five years with McDowell Group, Garrett has been project manager or lead analyst on numerous studies including the Modernization of the North Pacific Fishing Fleet, The Economic Impact of the Seafood Industry on the Kodiak Island Borough, and Trends and Opportunities in the Alaska Maritime Industrial Support Sector. Garrett holds a Master's in Natural Resources and Applied Economics from University of Alaska Fairbanks. He has fished commercially for salmon, halibut, cod, shrimp, and crab in the Bering Sea, Kodiak, Prince William Sound, and Southeast. Email: [garrett@McDowellGroup.net](mailto:garrett@McDowellGroup.net)



*Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute – Symphony of Seafood Winners*

**Jeremy Woodrow, Executive Director**

*Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI)*

Mr. Woodrow served as the communications officer for the Alaska Department of Transportation. Jeremy is a born and raised Alaskan and his family has commercially fished in Southeast Alaska for five decades. He has practiced public relations in Alaska for over 15 years. Jeremy received his Bachelor's in public relations and Bachelor's in advertising from Northern Arizona University. Email: [jwoodrow@alaskaseafood.org](mailto:jwoodrow@alaskaseafood.org)

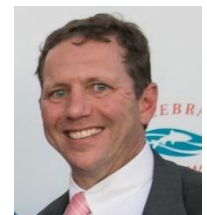


*Resource Development Roundtable*

**Daniel L. Cheyette, Vice-President**

*Lands and Natural Resources, Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC)*

Mr. Cheyette has worked for BBNC since July 2011, serving as an Associate General Counsel prior to his transition to the Land Department in January 2018. Before joining BBNC, he worked as an Assistant Attorney General and District Attorney for the State of Alaska, a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska, and as a staff attorney for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation in Anchorage and Nome. He moved to Alaska in 1996 following law school to clerk for the Alaska Superior Court and subsequently the Federal District Court. Email: [dcheyette@BBNC.net](mailto:dcheyette@BBNC.net)



**Kris Hess, Deputy Director**

*Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW)*

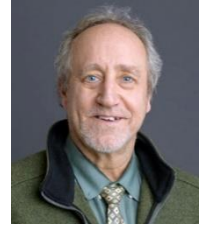
Kris joined the DMLW in November of 2015 as the Section Chief for DMLW's Realty Services Section to oversee bringing in Alaska's 105 million acres of land allotted at statehood. In June 2016, Kris was promoted to DMLW's Chief of Operations responsible for managing and supervising DMLW's three land regional offices, the Public Access Assertion and Defense (PAAD) unit, as well as the Division's IT Services team. In January 2019, Kris was promoted to the position of Deputy Director and is now responsible for managing and overseeing other sections of the Division such as Surveys, Land Sales, Realty Services, Program Support, Appraisals, and Planning Section. Prior to Alaska, Kris served as the "lands" attorney for Wisconsin's Dept. of Natural Resources & worked for the WI Dept. of Transportation for 3½ years. She and her husband ran a real estate title company for 7 years and she has over 25 years of both public and private land realty experience.



**Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner**

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game*

Mr. Vincent-Lang had a 34-year public service career at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game before accepting the position of commissioner. A scientist with a focus on fulfilling the department's mission, Vincent-Lang began work at the department as a fisheries research and management biologist for the Division of Sport Fish in 1981. He held the positions of regional management and research coordinator and assistant director for 28 years in the Division of Sport Fish. In 2012 he was named Director of the Division of Wildlife. He holds a B.S. degree in biology/population dynamics from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay and a M.S. degree in Biological Oceanography from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He lives in Anchorage with his wife of 35 years and has three children. Email: [doug.vincent-lang@alaska.gov](mailto:doug.vincent-lang@alaska.gov)



**Jason W. Brune, Commissioner**

*Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation*

Mr. Brune was appointed as Commissioner in December 2018. Prior, he was the senior director of land and resources at Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI). He oversaw and participated in the development and administration of CIRI's 1.6 million acres of subsurface resources, including oil, gas, minerals, sand and gravel, and coal. He supervised the team's staff, environmental contractors, stakeholder management, and legal review while building relationships with CIRI's villages. Mr. Brune also worked to identify priorities for addressing contaminated lands. Prior to working at CIRI, he worked for Anglo American as the company's public affairs and government relations manager. He is the former executive director for the Resource Development Council. He has a bachelor's degree in biology from Carleton College and his graduate work was in environmental science at Alaska Pacific University. Email: [jason.brune@alaska.gov](mailto:jason.brune@alaska.gov)



**Dr. Richard L. Webb, Chief Operating Officer**

*Designori, LLC*

Dr. Webb recently retired from the University of Alaska Anchorage, where he was Activity Director for the Robust Online Learning development program and Studio Director of UAA's Innovative Design Studio. He holds a Ph.D. in Education with specialization in Instructional Design and a Master's in Training and Development. An educator by passion as well as by profession, Richard is now dedicating himself full time to bringing Virtual Reality and other reality spectrum technologies to Alaskan companies and communities. Cofounder of Designori, a local educational training and technologies company, he is especially interested in growing a well-trained workforce of Alaskans capable of implementing these new emergent technologies. He believes they represent a significant economic opportunity for Alaska and are a viable bridge to the future. Email: [richard@designori.net](mailto:richard@designori.net)



***Advanced Manufacturing in Seafood Processing***

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**Jay Douglass, Chief Operating Officer**

*Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM)*

Founded at Carnegie Mellon University in January 2017 and now operating as an independent non-profit, ARM won an \$80 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to become the leading catalyst of robotics innovation. ARM operates as part of the Manufacturing USA network, and is supported by an additional \$150 million in commitments. By creating a collaborative ecosystem of like-minded organizations, ARM is speeding the movement of industrial robots into commercial use, while preparing a labor force to operate and manage these technologies. Previously Jay worked at the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. He most recently managed the SEI's business in Europe. Jay's educational background includes a BS in Business Administration from Miami University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. Email: [jay.douglass@arminstitute.org](mailto:jay.douglass@arminstitute.org)



**Dr. Gley Bledsoe**, Founding Director

*Washington State University, School of Food Science's Center for Advanced Food Technology*

Dr. Bledsoe heads programs focused on development of advanced seafood processing systems (shore-based and at-sea), alternative energy applications for food processing facilities, and development of programs to prepare tomorrow's fisheries and food workforce. He is an internationally recognized expert in fisheries/seafood harvest, processing and marketing, aquaculture, agribusiness, natural resources, economic development, post-harvest processing, food safety, counter-bio-terrorism, management, and research. He retired in 1990 as President of a Seattle/Alaska based seafood co., returning to university to achieve advanced degrees. He has a Ph.D. in Seafood Engineering from the University of Washington. Email: [gley@wsu.edu](mailto:gley@wsu.edu)



**Rob Anderson**, Regional Sales Manager

*Baader North America*

Rob brings a unique perspective to the Baader organization in that he has diverse experience managing multi-million-dollar production, supply chain, and logistical projects around the globe. Rob has lived and worked in Europe and Asia which has allowed him to capitalize on his core strengths and ability to bring diverse stakeholder groups together and lead them to successful solutions. He has been integral in the maritime industry for over 28 years with responsibility over managing fleets of commercial freighters, fishing vessels, shipyard operations, and tourism, with the last decade focused on the seafood sector. Rob has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Washington State University and has graduated from the National Fisheries Institute Future Leaders program. Email: [rob.anderson@baader.com](mailto:rob.anderson@baader.com)



**Joyce Sidopoulos**, Co-Founder and Director

*MassRobotics*

MassRobotics is the nation's leading innovation hub for robotics and connected device entrepreneurs. Joyce serves as the Robotics Community Manager for the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council, promoting robotics and facilitating dialogue and partnership between Robotics companies, technologists, and academia. Prior experience includes several years as a civilian research scientist for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center studying sonar performance prediction systems, with a focus on Sonar Signal Processing, Testing, and Systems Analysis. Later experience includes several years with General Dynamics as a Business Development Director. She holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University.

Email: [joyce@massrobotics.org](mailto:joyce@massrobotics.org)



**Murphy Wonsick**, Ph.D. candidate

*Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Northeastern University*

Murphy has received two B.S. degrees, one in Computer Science and the other in Mathematical Sciences, from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a M.S. in Robotics Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. She is a member of the Robotics and Intelligent Vehicles Research Laboratory (RIVeR Lab) at Northeastern and has been working with NASA's humanoid robot, Valkyrie. Murphy's current areas of interest include human-robot interaction and collaboration, human-robot heterogeneous teams, and humanoid robotics. Email: [wonsick.m@husky.neu.edu](mailto:wonsick.m@husky.neu.edu)



**Chuck McKain, Sales Manager**

*Carsoe*

Mr. McKain has lived in many states, from Washington State to Florida and in between. He has worked in the Commercial side of the Food Industry for 18 years, including Hobart, Fagor, and Smith & Greene, and in the Industrial side of the Food Industry for 13 years, including Carsoe, Marel, and Belshaw Bro's. He helped develop a vent-less hood system and pioneered several products into the U.S. for various companies. He has worked for the start-up company MDK for 6 years. He has been a member of industry groups such as MAFSI, NRA, FPSA, and PSPA for a total of 37 years. Email: [chm@carsoe.com](mailto:chm@carsoe.com)



**Energy Session**

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**Laura Vaught, Energy Coordinator**

*Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC)*

Ms. Vaught came to SWAMC as an energy intern in 2014 and has grown through roles in the organization. Now managing SWAMC's Department of Energy-funded Energy Network Grant, she finds satisfaction helping communities make progress towards energy independence and sustainability. Laura graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2014 with a B.A. in Economics and a minor in Mathematics, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in Resource & Applied Economics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Outside of her work, Laura enjoys exploring the outdoors through hiking, running, and camping.

Email: [lvaught@swamc.org](mailto:lvaught@swamc.org)



**Bruce Wright, Senior Scientist**

*Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA)*

Mr. Wright has been working as the Senior Scientist for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) since 2005 and the Knik Tribe Senior Scientist since 2012. After graduate school, he worked for ADF&G as a Fish Biologist and as a Habitat Biologist. Bruce was a University of Alaska professor, Chief of NOAA's Office of Oil Spill Damage Assessment and Restoration, and Governor Knowles' Science Advisor. Bruce has authored several research papers and books on Alaska ecosystems. He currently serves as Regional Energy Coordinator for the Aleutian region. Email: [brucew@apiai.org](mailto:brucew@apiai.org)



**Tyler Kornelis, Economic Development Project Manager**

*Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA)*

Tyler works with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Kodiak region, working to increase employment and incomes, create opportunities for entrepreneurs and existing businesses, and reduce the economic leakage in a community that is heavily dependent on importation of consumable goods. As the Regional Energy Coordinator for the Kodiak Region, Tyler also works with isolated micro-grid communities to reduce dependence on fossil fuels through integration of renewables. Tyler lives in Kodiak with his wife, Melissa Witteveen. Email: [Tyler.Kornelis@kodiakhealthcare.org](mailto:Tyler.Kornelis@kodiakhealthcare.org)



**Carolyn Ramsey, Energy Specialist**

*Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)*

Ms. Ramsey has more than a decade of experience in project management and implementation. She grew up in Alaska with the woods being her backyard and playground. She is the project manager for Commercial Education and the Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance Center (EETAC) at AHFC, working with the Research and Rural Development team to provide technical assistance for energy efficiency retrofit projects across Alaska.

Email: [cramsey@ahfc.us](mailto:cramsey@ahfc.us)



**Cady Lister**, Deputy Director and Chief Economist

*Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)*

Cady oversees a range of programs that provide grants, loans, technical assistance, and research with the goal of maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable power in Alaska. Cady is a lifelong Alaskan with more than 15 years of experience in research, policy analysis, and evaluation of project economics in the energy industry. Cady has worked closely with federal, state, and local governments as well as tribes and private businesses throughout the state.

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*Southwest Alaska Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*

**Shirley Kelly**, Alaska Economic Development Representative

*Economic Development Administration (EDA)*

Ms. Kelly was born and raised in the village of Egegik. Her father is Nick Abalama, Sr. and her mother is Virginia. Ms. Kelly has 13 siblings. She has worked for EDA since 2003 and has been Alaska Economic Development Representative since 2009. She represents the agency on several Interagency working groups: the White House Arctic Executive Steering Committee's Community Resilience Working Group, HUD's Northwest Interagency Committee for Sustainable Communities, and FEMA's Pacific Northwest Disaster Recovery working group. She worked as a Tribal Administrator, City Manager, and Village Corp. Manager for 20 years. During her tenure at the village, she advised the Lake & Peninsula Borough on Fisheries issues, was a board member for the Bristol Bay Area Health Corp., an alternate board member for BBEDC, held a seat on the State Fish and Game Advisory Board, and a seat on the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Committee. Email: [skelly2@eda.gov](mailto:skelly2@eda.gov)



**Doug Griffin**, Executive Director

*Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC)*

Doug moved to Alaska with his parents, teachers with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in 1964. He graduated from high school in Sitka and has lived in 9 communities in his fifty+ years in the state. He is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C. with a B.S. in Political Science and a Master's in Public Administration. While in school, he worked in the office of Alaska Senator Mike Gravel. Over his 36-year career in management and policy positions for the State and various cities, he has worked for Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the cities of Valdez, St. Mary's, and Palmer. He has worked with the Alaska Legislature and is knowledgeable about state and local government, economic development, and issues confronting rural Alaska. Doug has lived in Anchorage for 18+ years with his wife Barbara. They have a daughter, son, and 3 granddaughters. Email: [dgriffin@swamc.org](mailto:dgriffin@swamc.org)



*Community Resilience Roundtable*

**Doug Johnson**, President & CEO

*Professional Growth Systems (PGS)*

Mr. Johnson has 25+ years of experience in planning and management in the private and public sectors. He is a University of Alaska Fairbanks graduate in geological engineering and the Burklyn Business School in entrepreneurship. Prior to joining PGS, he planned and managed geophysical exploration programs for the oil industry and has led applied research programs for the University's Geophysical Institute. He is a seasoned Angel Investor in a variety of start-up companies. He consulted in the launch of Alaska's first biotechnology company and worked with scientists from Stanford Research Institute to commercialize new technology. He is a certified facilitator of the Kauffman Foundation's FastTrac entrepreneurial development program, founding member of the Project Management Institute, Alaska Chapter, was a delegate to the first U.S./U.S.S.R. Citizen Summit in Washington D.C., and a former Board Chairman of REAP. His current Board membership includes Nanook Tech Ventures, Alaska Accelerator Fund, and Coupi. Email: [dougj@professionalgrowthsystems.com](mailto:dougj@professionalgrowthsystems.com)



**Adam Crum, Commissioner**

*Alaska Department of Health and Social Services*

An Alaskan resident, born and raised, Adam has over 10 years of experience in strategic management, executive consulting, and managing multi-million-dollar budgets of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. He has worked with other organizations on long-term planning, strategy, and organizational development. Commissioner Crum served as the Executive Vice President of Northern Industrial Training and is highly regarded in the business community for his ability to establish and lead teams. His personal passion is being active in the community through volunteering with MyHouse and The Salvation Army. He spends his volunteer time providing resources to those experiencing homelessness and those affected by the opioid epidemic. Commissioner Crum holds a Master of Science in Public Health from John Hopkin’s University. Email: [adam.crum@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.crum@alaska.gov)



**Amanda Price, Commissioner**

*Alaska Department of Public Safety*

Commissioner Price, a life-long Alaskan from a law enforcement family, brings two decades of experience to her position. She served as senior advisor on crime policy and prevention to Gov. Bill Walker. She has served as the executive director of Standing Together Against Rape (STAR), Alaska’s only stand-alone rape crisis center. In this position she worked laterally with the special victims and crimes against children units of the Anchorage Police Dept. and Alaska Bureau of Investigation. During her tenure at STAR she hosted and facilitated a multi-state summit to address violence in the military in response to the National Guard sexual assault allegations. She has served on the National Criminal Justice Association, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Anchorage Child Abuse Caucus, the Governor’s Criminal Justice Data Initiative, and Anchorage Housing and Neighborhood Development Oversight Committee. Email: [amanda.price@alaska.gov](mailto:amanda.price@alaska.gov)



**Luke Fanning, Chief Executive Officer**

*APICDA and its subsidiaries*

Luke is a lifelong Alaskan whose seafood industry experience began in the 1990s as a crewman on a halibut long-liner and salmon seiner. Prior to joining APICDA in 2017, Luke served as the vice president and regional manager for First National Bank of Alaska, where he managed a region including five bank branches. Luke has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Portland, an MBA from the University of Alaska Southeast, and is a graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School. Luke has served on the board for the Juneau Rotary Club and the Healing Hand Foundation, which provides financial assistance for the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium. He also captains the F/V Triton, a 32-foot commercial fishing vessel, gillnetting for salmon and longlining for halibut. Email: [lfanning@apicda.com](mailto:lfanning@apicda.com)



**Infrastructure Roundtable**

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**Mary Siroky, Deputy Commissioner**

*Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)*

Ms. Siroky’s extensive legislative, budget, and management experience is rooted in her 30 years of state service. Before retiring in 2016, Siroky served as Director of DOT&PF’s Administrative Services Division where she was responsible for planning, development, and execution of department operating and capital budgets, federal reporting, and management of the department’s administrative functions. Siroky has also worked at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and as a self-employed consultant. Ms. Siroky graduated from California State University at Humboldt. She lives in Juneau with her husband and cat. She is active in Girl Scouts of Alaska and Juneau Rotary. Email: [mary.siroky@alaska.gov](mailto:mary.siroky@alaska.gov)





**Jon Faulkner, Deputy Commissioner**

*Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development*

Deputy Commissioner Faulkner is from Homer, where he and his wife own the Land's End Hotel. They have five children together. Deputy Commissioner Faulkner ran for the Legislature in 2012 and is interested in public service and economic development. In the current administration, his primary accountability will be working with the Division Directors and their teams to maintain continuity and to use his 40 years of business experience to strengthen the economy and bring efficiency to government operations. Email: [jon.faulkner@alaska.gov](mailto:jon.faulkner@alaska.gov)



**Christine O'Connor, Executive Director**

*Alaska Telecom Association*

Ms. O'Connor has served as Executive Director since 2014. She works with ATA's members to advance broadband service for all Alaska. Christine first dipped her toes in Alaska telecom when she was elected to the Board of Directors of Nushagak Cooperative in 2000. Her roots in rural Alaska give her a deep commitment to bringing service to Alaskans as well as an appreciation of the challenges remote location, extreme climate, and high costs bring. In 2005, Christine and her family moved to the Mat-Su Valley where she joined Matanuska Telephone Association just as the first CLEC entered the market. Her time at MTA included extensive participation in the regulatory and compliance realm, giving her an appreciation of the on-going challenges, the rural industry faces in navigating constant changes in the policy realm. Every summer Christine goes home to fish with her family in Bristol Bay. Email: [connor@alaskatel.org](mailto:connor@alaskatel.org)



*A Dynamic Ocean*

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**Dr. Nicholas Bond, Principal Research Scientist**

*Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean, University of Washington*

Dr. Bond is also affiliated with the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory of NOAA. He has a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington. His research focuses on the weather and climate of the Pacific Northwest and the linkages between the climate and marine ecosystems of the North Pacific and Alaskan Arctic. Email: [Nicholas.bond@NOAA.gov](mailto:Nicholas.bond@NOAA.gov)



**Dr. Elizabeth ('Ebett') Siddon, Fisheries Biologist**

*NOAA Fisheries at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Juneau*

Dr. Siddon's current research focuses on the Bering Sea region with an emphasis on pollock fisheries dynamics. She leads the southeastern Bering Sea surface trawl survey that collects comprehensive information over the shelf ecosystem. She also co-produces the Eastern Bering Sea Ecosystem Status Report that provides ecosystem information, including local knowledge and traditional knowledge, to the management of fish stocks. NOAA's Ecosystem Status Reports are produced for the Eastern Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska and are used to inform the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's quota setting process by providing real-time information on the state of the ecosystem and potential impacts to fish stocks. Email: [elizabeth.siddon@noaa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.siddon@noaa.gov)



**Dr. Tobias Schwoerer, Senior Research Professional and Principal Investigator**

*University of Alaska Anchorage, ISER*

Toby has more than 15 years of public-policy experience relevant to Alaska, the Arctic, and other countries. With a diverse background in economics and the natural sciences, he develops innovative techniques for decision-making in the public and private sectors. He has led a range of projects that include assessing the value of the environment to local livelihoods, analyzing alternative energy options in collaboration with rural communities, and measuring the contribution of Alaska's basic sector industries to the overall economy. Much of his current research focuses on human dimensions of sustainable systems, with the goal of informing



policy through applied economic analysis. He has been studying human responses to environmental risk related to aquatic invasive species and climate change. His education includes a Ph.D. in Socio-Bioeconomics from UAF, a M.S. in Resource and Environmental Management from Simon Fraser University, and a B.A. in Economics from UAA. Email: [tschwoerer@alaska.edu](mailto:tschwoerer@alaska.edu)

**Tim Sands**, Nushagak/Togiak Management Biologist

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game*

Mr. Sands graduated from UAF in 1991 with a degree in Fisheries. He has worked for the Department of Fish and Game in several areas since 1988. He also spent two winters as a shellfish observer on Bering Sea crab vessels and two years as a fisheries officer with the Peace Corps in St. Kitts. He moved to Dillingham in 2000 as the Assistant Area Management Biologist. Tim has been the Bristol Bay Westside area management biologist since 2002. He and his wife Laurel have two children, Sadie and Sawyer. They own a house in Dillingham and are active in the community. Email: [tim.sands@alaska.gov](mailto:tim.sands@alaska.gov)



**Tommy Sheridan**, External Affairs

*Silver Bay Seafoods*

Mr. Sheridan has an M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Administration from Oregon State University. He has seventeen years of experience with Alaskan salmon fishery management, including eight years with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, six years with Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Division of Commercial Fisheries, and three years with Silver Bay Seafoods, most recently overseeing the company’s External Affairs Department. He currently serves on the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation Board of Directors, Prince William Sound Science Center Board of Directors, City of Cordova Fisheries Advisory and Fisheries Development committees, and on the Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Email: [tommy.sheridan@silverbayseafoods.com](mailto:tommy.sheridan@silverbayseafoods.com)



**Rachael Yatchmeneff**

Ms. Yatchmeneff is from King Cove and False Pass. In May, Rachael will be a first-generation graduate having earned a Bachelor’s in Business Administration Management and a minor in Alaska Native Business Management from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is an Administrative Assistant and Clinical Information Clerk at Eastern Aleutian Tribes Inc., a nonprofit health organization that serves eight rural communities in the Aleutians. Rachael enjoys assuming leadership roles and hopes to inspire others by demonstrating that anything is possible if they set their minds to it and work hard.



**Reuben Ivanoff**

Some of Reuben’s greatest and oldest memories are those of king crabs fighting on the kitchen floor, battling with coho salmon at the river, and jigging for codfish with his father. He participated in commercial fishing for the first time at 13 on the family salmon seiner based out of Kodiak. Since then he’s been lucky to have the opportunity to work commercially long lining halibut, trapping tanner crab, harvesting sea cucumbers, and gillnetting herring. He’s looking forward to the difficult but rewarding transition from deckhand to captain soon. He is grateful for the opportunities provided by the great Alaskan waters and hopes to participate in the preservation of the commercial fisheries so that future generations can benefit from this precious resource.

