

RC . 027

December 10, 2013

Chairman Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Since my retirement from ADF&G, working as a private consultant, I have provided many analyses, including the Yukon River summer chum salmon escapement goal analysis, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries in support of various proposals, ACRs, and Emergency Petitions. However, I have not formally presented my credentials to the BOF in support of these analyses. I believe that it is appropriate and possibly necessary to provide these credentials to you now so that you can assess my qualifications for yourself. Attached is my resume. This document highlights my professional career which includes approximately 21 years associated with management and research positions regarding the salmon that originate within the Yukon River drainage.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Gene J. Sandone  
G.Sandone Consulting, LLC

***Gene J. Sandone***

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**Professional Experience:**

**Senior Fisheries Scientist**

**G.Sandone Consulting, LLC, May 2009 - Present**

I serve as president and Senior Fisheries Scientist for G.Sandone Consulting, LLC, an environmental consulting firm specializing in fish biology and life history studies, fish inventory and stock assessment, fishery management issues, salmon escapement goal development and evaluation, and fish and aquatic ecology. Past research includes providing an escapement goal analysis that was used as a basis for the development of the present Yukon River Chinook salmon Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) for the Chinook salmon stocks that spawn in the mainstem Yukon River in Canada. Clients included: Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA), Kwik'pak Fisheries Association, Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Canada, the Yukon River Panel, and the USFWS.

**Senior Fisheries Scientist**

**R2 Resource Consultants, 2008 –2009**

I supervised all Anchorage staff and managed field projects including habitat mapping, fish abundance and distribution, and salmon escapement assessment through aerial survey techniques to evaluate fish stocks in the proposed Pebble Mine development affected area.

**Regional Supervisor, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Commercial Fisheries Division, 2001 –2008**

I oversaw all research, commercial, subsistence, and personal-use management activities in the Region, including the largest subsistence fisheries in Alaska. I approved Emergency Orders and Project Operational Plans. I developed funding proposals to support program improvements. I coordinated with the USFWS in managing subsistence fisheries. I supervised, directly or through subordinate staff, approximately 200 employees. I developed and managed the Regional budget that was in excess of \$9 M. I encouraged personal commitment of employees through effective personnel and program. I served on International committees and teams that directed international research that influenced long-term management strategies and restoration needs within the Yukon River drainage.

**Regional Research Biologist/Supervisor, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Commercial Fisheries Division, 2000 –2001+**

I provided senior-level leadership and supervision for all research activities within the Region. I supervised, planned, coordinated, implemented and evaluated the salmon, herring, crab and U.S./Canada salmon research programs for the Yukon River. I directly or indirectly supervised approximately 100 employees. I served as chair of the U.S. Section of the U.S./Canada Yukon River Joint Technical Committee and the primary investigator for the U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty Negotiations Studies and the Norton Sound Initiative Studies. I participated in the original Kuskokwim Area strategic research plan and initiated the U.S/Canada Joint Technical Committee research plan. I served as technical advisor in research plans development and set funding priorities for the U.S./Canada Restoration and Enhancement Fund. I was instrumental in the development of the MOU between various Non Governmental Organizations USFWS, NOAA, and ADF&G that outlined the framework for identifying and funding research priorities in conjunction with the Norton Sound Research and Restoration and the AYK-Sustainable Salmon Initiatives. I chaired the ADF&G AYK escapement goal committee in 2000 that resulted in recommended changes to long-standing escapement goals in the Norton Sound and Yukon Areas.

**Area Research Biologist, Northern Cook Inlet Management Area (NCIMA)  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, 1996 –2000**

I provided senior-level leadership for salmon and resident fish species research programs. I supervised research staff. I designed and conducted numerous research projects, including adult salmon enumeration weir projects, wild juvenile salmon coded wire tagging projects, and a project designed to establish baseline coho salmon information on the Cottonwood Creek watershed. I supervised research activities associated with: monitoring water temperature of streams, estimating NCI northern pike abundance and distribution, documenting spawning location and distribution of rainbow trout in Parks Highway streams, and estimating abundance of juvenile salmon in area streams. I authored several biological escapement goal analyses for Chinook and coho salmon stocks using spawner-recruit models and other methodologies.

**Area Research Biologist, Yukon and Northern Management Area  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Commercial Fisheries Division, 1988 –1996**

I provided leadership and supervision for the Chinook and summer chum salmon research in the Yukon River drainage and Cape Romanzof herring research. I was responsible for conducting stock assessment projects that utilized side-looking sonar and towers. I directed the stock biology program that utilized scale-pattern analysis to determine region of origin as well as age, sex and size information for Yukon River Chinook salmon. I authored and/or edited numerous stock assessments and stock biology operational plans. I authored a Fishery Research Bulletin that presented an improved procedure to estimate summer chum salmon harvest in the Yukon River District 4 “roe fishery”. Further, I devised an ingenious method of indexing the daily spawn

deposition by the herring biomass within Kokockik Bay at Cape Romanzof.

**Bering Sea Herring Research Biologist:**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Commercial Fisheries Division, 1984 –1986**

I served as project leader biologist for the Eastern Bering Sea herring research group.

**Fishery Biologist**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Su Hydro Aquatic Studies, 1982 –1984**

I worked as a biologist to determine the effects of a large-scale dam on the upper Susitna River resident fish and salmon species.

**Education:**

**Master of Science - Fishery Science (1986), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,**

**Bachelor of Science - Fishery Resources (1978), University of Idaho**

**Bachelor of Science - Accounting and Business Administration (1973) St. Joseph's College,**