



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board of Fisheries and Board of Game**

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## 2017 Advisory Committee Excellence in Service Award Winners

**Percy Ballot, Northern Seward Peninsula AC, nominated by Carmen Daggett, ADF&G Boards Support**

As chair of the Northern Seward Peninsula AC, Percy Ballot remains an active and engaged AC member and leader in his region. Percy runs organized and efficient meetings, engages thoroughly, and works in support of other ACs in the Arctic region. Percy helped create the Celebration of Life event in his home of Buckland, an event that honors Inupiaq culture while incorporating fish and game best management practices.

**Raymond Stoney, Lower Kobuk AC, nominated by Wilbur Howarth, Sr.**

Raymond Stoney has served the Lower Kobuk AC since 1991. Raymond has been a leader in the region, bringing ACs from Upper Kobuk, Kotzebue, and Noatak/Kivalina together to speak as one voice for Unit 23 efforts. In particular, Raymond was a leader in establishing the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, receiving a Bureau of Land Management National 4C Award. The C's stand for consultation, cooperation, communication, and conservation.

**Ray Collins, McGrath AC nominated by Josh Peirce, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation and Vince Mathews, USF&WS**

Ray Collins has served as chair on the McGrath AC since its inception in 1976. He remains the leader behind the McGrath AC and serves as a voice for the Upper Kuskokwim River. In that time, Ray was a force behind several initiatives including the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area (an effort that mitigated user conflicts between boat and aircraft hunters), an intensive management program that significantly increased the number of moose, and the establishment of a winter sheep hunt in Unit 19C. Not only does Ray work with the state's management system, he is also on the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group, the Western Interior Federal Subsistence RAC, and the McGrath area intensive management committee.

**Virgil Umphenour, Fairbanks AC, nominated by Andrew Glasgow**

Virgil Umphenour is a dedicated and tireless supporter for fish and game interests in his region. Virgil has served on the Fairbanks Advisory Committee since 2004 follow a lengthy term on the Board of Fisheries. Virgil's contributions include work on the Yukon salmon treaty, contributions to younger Alaskans, and efforts in the federal arena.

**David Osterback, Sand Point AC, nominated by Melvin Larsen**

David Osterback has been on the Sand Point AC since its inception. David is noted for his ability to mediate difficult issues among the three commercial gear types (set, drift, and seine) in the area, offering a humble and modest demeanor which has led to his successful representation of the advisory committee's recommendations before the Board.