

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Full Committee Nomination Hearing
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

REPUBLICAN QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

COVER PAGE
Pierre Gentin

SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN (R-AK)

Mr. Gentin, you may have seen or heard last week some of my frustration about making sure that NOAA gets the staff and funding that it needs to do fisheries surveys. I was glad to see that the Secretary did get the contract for the *Oscar Dyson* signed, and I very much appreciate that.

However, I want to take this opportunity to ensure that you, too, are aware of how important some of NOAA's basic functions are to support Alaska's fishermen. NOAA needs to complete fisheries surveys so that we have a robust view of our stocks so that we can fish sustainably. Without timely surveys, it shortens our fishing seasons and people's ability to make a living.

It is not as simple as just jumping on a boat and doing these surveys. Particularly in Alaska, the weather only cooperates for a small window of time each year and contracts and staff have to be in place on time, or you miss the whole season.

I really appreciate the Secretary and this administration's efforts to make sure we are being fiscally responsible, but I do want to stress the importance of timing to kick these surveys off.

1. Mr. Gentin, I'm glad you'll be helping the Secretary accomplish his very important work. Can you commit to staying on top of all of the various minutiae of logistics necessary for NMFS to do fishery surveys?

Answer: I appreciate the importance of NOAA fisheries to Alaskans. If confirmed, I will work diligently with the Secretary to ensure NMFS has all the resources it requires to conduct fishery surveys.