



March 19, 2025

- delivered by electronic transmission -

Representative Fields,

The City of Valdez and Valdez City Council want to extend a thank you to you for introducing HB 79. Renaming "Shoup Bay State Marine Park" as "Vic Fischer Shoup Bay State Marine Park" is an appropriate honor for the late statesman and constitutional convention delegate.

Vic Fischer holds a special place in the hearts of Valdezians due to the help he gave in the reconstruction of Valdez after the 1964 earthquake and the role he played in shaping the new townsite. As a sea kayaker, Fischer also spent a great deal of time recreating in Prince William Sound throughout his life and was instrumental in working with the legislature to make the idea of state marine parks become a reality.

Fischer was the sponsor of SB 128, signed into law on July 16, 1983, that designated the lands and waters of Shoup Bay as a marine park unit of the Alaska state park system (along with ten other areas in Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound). Shoup Bay, located just 5-miles from Valdez, is home to the Shoup Glacier and an impressive black-legged kittiwake rookery. The marine park is a popular area for boating and kayaking for locals and tourists alike. There are also three public use cabins in the bay that are used year-round.

In *Alaska State Parks – Recollections from the People Who Shaped Alaska's Park System*, Vic Fischer is quoted as saying "I kayaked right into some of those places that we helped create and I said, 'wow, we have preserved this for recreation.' That is such a good thing. It's great to know that somebody can kayak through the inland waters, through Prince William Sound, and know that there are state parks; that there is a good, secure, safe place to camp out, to come ashore or even if you're with a boat, a safe place to anchor."

We fully support the renaming of our local state marine park to honor Vic Fischer's legacy of protecting marine areas for recreation and hope that HB 79 is successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Fleming".

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

City of Valdez

