



# Bristol Bay Native Corporation

*Enriching Our Native Way of Life*

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Attn: Representative Edgmon

Date: March 26, 2009

Re: Statement in Support of HB 117-Board of Fisheries Meeting Location

The Bristol Bay Native Corporation supports House Bill 117 – Board of Fisheries Meeting Location. As residents of the Bristol Bay Region, our shareholders are impacted significantly by the matters considered and decisions made by the Board of Fisheries. Because of this significant impact and the importance of fisheries to the Region, participation and input from local residents is crucial to reaching the best outcomes.

As fuel costs and living costs rise, especially in rural Alaska, the number of residents able to travel to meetings held in Anchorage falls. Holding Board of Fisheries meetings in the particular regions of the state when the proposals on the agenda relates to those areas furthers the public process by allowing the voice of those residents most significantly impacted to be heard. As the regional corporation representing shareholders of the Bristol Bay Region, we know well the cost of holding meetings in various locations around the state. However, we do just that in order to better represent all of our shareholders, rather than only those in our population centers. We ask that the Board of Fisheries be required to do the same, so that all residents of Alaska are better represented.