

HJR

7

<TARGET><BILL>HJR 7</BILL><SUBJECT>HJR
7</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES29</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/6/15

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE:

03/11/15

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7(FSH)

HJR 7 OPPOSE ALEUTIAN NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Opposing the proposed designation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- adopt previous SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
CRT	LEG
EED	MVA
DEC	DNR
DFG	DPS
GOV	REV
DHS	DOT
AJS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
				1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
LEG			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>	Costello	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	Wielechowski	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	Stedman	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	Stoltze			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	Coghill	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	Giessel	✓			

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7(FSH)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 2/6/15
Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES EDGMON, Herron, Millett, Chenault, Stutes, Ortiz, Johnson, Talerico, Hawker, Pruitt, LeDoux, Tilton, Hughes

SENATORS Giessel, MacKinnon, Hoffman, Egan, Bishop, Micciche, Stevens, Coghill, Dunleavy, McGuire, Costello, Kelly

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing the proposed designation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS**, in June of 2014, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 4 reestablished the process by which communities may submit applications to have the National
 5 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration consider nominations of areas of the marine and
 6 Great Lakes environments as national marine sanctuaries; and

7 **WHEREAS** the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has stated that
 8 "every nomination starts at the community level"; and

9 **WHEREAS**, while the Sanctuary Nomination Process Guide published by the
 10 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calls for "community-based support for
 11 the nomination," it also includes a definition of "communities" that is so broad it is essentially
 12 meaningless; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in December of 2014, a collection of predominantly non-Alaska
 14 organizations led by the Washington, D.C., based Public Employees for Environmental
 15 Responsibility nominated an area of approximately 554,000 square nautical miles--nearly
 16 equal to the entire landmass of the state--to be designated as the Aleutian Islands National

1 Marine Sanctuary; and

2 **WHEREAS** the designation of the proposed Aleutian Islands National Marine
3 Sanctuary would make permanent all current restrictions on fishing and other commerce and
4 would potentially authorize additional permanent restrictions that would prove burdensome to
5 present and future economic activity in the region; and

6 **WHEREAS** concerns noted in the nomination have been and are currently being
7 vigorously addressed through a variety of institutions and measures; and

8 **WHEREAS** 277,100 square nautical miles of the Aleutian Islands are already
9 designated as a habitat conservation area; and

10 **WHEREAS** fishing in the region has long been under the conscientious, effective
11 stewardship of local residents, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Alaska
12 Board of Fisheries, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish
13 and Game; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Aleutian Islands are subject to the North Pacific Fishery Management
15 Council's Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan, which provides for heightened scientific
16 scrutiny to assess and enrich the health of the ecosystem, the sustainability of fisheries, and
17 the well-being of communities in the region; and

18 **WHEREAS** risks associated with shipping are being addressed through the ongoing
19 Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment, which includes the development of the Optimal Response
20 System to increase towing, salvage, and spill response capabilities in the region; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in December 2014, President Obama withdrew the 32,500,000-acre
22 North Aleutian Basin Planning Area from oil and gas leasing, and, in any case, oil and gas
23 development in the region is not feasible in the foreseeable future; and

24 **WHEREAS** strong Environmental Protection Agency regulations are already in place
25 to address potential issues involving invasive species; and

26 **WHEREAS**, at this time, the legislature is unaware of any support from local
27 communities, local tribes, or other local groups for the creation of an Aleutian Islands
28 National Marine Sanctuary; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in the wake of the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
30 nomination, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly, the City of Sand Point, the City of Adak,
31 the federally recognized Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, the Akutan Traditional Council, the

1 King Cove Corporation, and the Akutan Corporation published official declarations of their
2 strong opposition to the creation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on January 23, 2015, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
4 Administration informed Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility that the
5 nomination was not sufficient to warrant further consideration; however, the National Oceanic
6 and Atmospheric Administration also invited Public Employees for Environmental
7 Responsibility to revise and resubmit a nomination;


8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature is vehemently opposed to the
9 nomination by the Washington, D.C., based Public Employees for Environmental
10 Responsibility, or any similar nomination, for the creation of an Aleutian Islands National
11 Marine Sanctuary.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Penny Pritzker, United
13 States Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., Under Secretary of
14 Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric
15 Administration Administrator; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan
16 Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
17 Alaska delegation in Congress.

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
House District 37



Memorandum

Date: March 6, 2015
To: Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
From: Representative Bryce Edgmon 
RE: CSHJR7(FSH) Hearing Request—Oppose Aleutian National Marine Sanctuary

I respectfully request a hearing for CSHJR7(FSH)—Oppose Aleutian National Marine Sanctuary—at your earliest convenience.

HJR 7 declares the Legislature's opposition to a nomination made by the Washington, D.C., based Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) for the creation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Although subsequent to the introduction of the resolution NOAA deemed PEER's proposal "insufficient," the agency also invited the group to revise and resubmit a nomination.

Currently, the resolution's sponsor is unaware of any support from local communities, local tribes, or other local groups. In fact, in the wake of the PEER nomination the Aleutians East Borough Assembly, the federally recognized Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, the Akutan Traditional Council, the City of Sand Point, the City of Adak, and the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference have published official declarations of their strong opposition to the creation of a sanctuary.

Through HJR 7, the Legislature joins the residents of the Aleutians in voicing its profound disapproval of the Washington D.C. based PEER's nomination—or any such subsequent nomination—of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Please find the following materials in the CSHJR7(FSH) packet:

- HJR 7
- CSHJR7(FSH)
- CSHJR7(FSH) Explanation of Changes
- Sponsor Statement
- NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Nomination Process Guide
- PEER Nomination of Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary

State Capitol Building

120 East 4th Street, Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907 465 4451 Toll Free: 800 898 4451 Fax: 907 465 3445

Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov

Adak
Akutan
Aleknagik
Anvik
Atka
Attu Station
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Cold Bay
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekwok
False Pass
Flat
Grayling
Holy Cross
Igigi
Iliamna
Ivanof Bay
King Cove
King Salmon
Kokhanok
Koliganek
Lake Minchumina
Levelock
Lime Village
Manokotak
McGrath
Naknek
Nelson Lagoon
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nikolai
Nikolski
Nondalton
Pedro Bay
Perryville
Pilot Point
Pope-Vannoy
Port Alsworth
Port Heiden
Portage Creek
Red Devil
Sand Point
Shageluk
Sleetmute
South Naknek
St. George
St. Paul
Stony River
Takatna
Togiak
Twin Hills
Ugashik
Unalaska

- NOAA's January 23, 2015, Response to PEER
- Resolutions and Letters from Local Communities

My staff contact for this legislation is Tim Clark, who can be reached at 465-2839.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 7 Oppose Aleutian National Marine Sanctuary

CSHJR 7 declares the Legislature's opposition to a nomination made by the Washington, D.C., based Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) for the creation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

In June of 2014 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) re-established the process by which communities may submit applications to have NOAA consider nominations of areas of the marine and Great Lakes environments as national marine sanctuaries. The following December, a collection of predominantly non-Alaskan organizations, led by PEER, submitted a nomination to designate an area of approximately 554,000 square nautical miles—nearly equal to the entire landmass of the state of Alaska—as a national marine sanctuary.

Although on January 23rd, 2015, NOAA informed PEER that its nomination was not sufficient to warrant further consideration, the agency also invited the group to revise and resubmit a nomination.

Under the PEER proposal, all current restrictions on fishing and other commerce in the vast region would be made permanent, and new restrictions that would likely prove burdensome to present and future economic activity would be added.

In its information on the nomination process, NOAA states that "every nomination starts at the community level" and calls for "community-based support for the nomination." However, it appears that the groups led by PEER never consulted the dozens of local communities that would bear the brunt of the creation of a sanctuary.

Currently, CSHJR 7's sponsor is unaware of any support for the creation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary from local communities, local tribes, or other local groups. In fact, recently the Aleutians East Borough Assembly, the federally recognized Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, the Akutan Traditional Council, the City of Sand Point, and the City of Adak have published official declarations of their strong opposition.

Through HJR 7, the Legislature joins local residents of the Aleutians in voicing its profound disapproval of the Washington D.C. based PEER's nomination, and any similar nomination, to create an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.



Explanation of Changes Between HJR 7 and CSHJR7(FSH)

HJR 7 was revised in the committee substitute to reflect that on January 23, 2015, two days following the introduction of the resolution, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) informed the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) that its nomination to create an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary was not sufficient to warrant further consideration. However, in the same notification, NOAA invited PEER to revise and resubmit a nomination.

The substantive revisions in the CS include:

- inserting an additional "whereas" on Page 3, Lines 3 through 7, which notes NOAA's response to PEER
- the addition of the phrase "or any similar nomination" in the "resolve" on Page 3, Line 10, in order to address the possibility of the submission of a revised nomination by PEER or other entities.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSHJR 7(FSH)
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	2/6/2015

Identifier: HJR7-LEG-SESS-02-04-15
 Title: OPPOSE ALEUTIAN NATIONAL MARINE
 SANCTUARY
 Sponsor: EDGMON
 Requester: House Fisheries

Department: Alaska Legislature
 Appropriation: Legislative Operating Budget
 Allocation: Session Expenses
 OMB Component Number: 782

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2016 Request	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial Version

Prepared By:	Jessica Geary, Finance Manager	Phone:	(907)465-6626
Division:	Legislative Affairs Agency	Date:	02/04/2015 10:25 AM
Approved By:	Pamela Varni, Executive Director	Date:	02/04/15
Agency:	Legislative Affairs Agency		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

January 23, 2015

Richard Steiner
Box 666
9138 Arlon St., A3
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Mr. Steiner:

Thank you for submitting the nomination for the proposed "Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary." We appreciate your interest in how a national marine sanctuary could assist in meeting conservation objectives for waters surrounding the Aleutian Islands and southwest Alaska.

This letter is to inform you that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has completed its sufficiency review of the nomination. The sufficiency review is the first of three phases of review, and determines if the nomination provides enough of the information required for us to proceed with a more in-depth review. It is followed by phase two, which reviews a nomination against the four national significance criteria and phase three, which evaluates a nomination against the seven management considerations. We have concluded the nomination, as submitted, is not sufficient.

Our rationale for reaching this conclusion focuses primarily on management consideration #7, which indicates a national marine sanctuary nomination must demonstrate support for the national marine sanctuary concept from a breadth of community interests. In our final rule, we define a community as individuals or locally-based groups (e.g., "friends of" group, chamber of commerce); tribal, local, state, or national agencies; elected officials; or topic-based stakeholder groups, at the local, regional or national level (e.g., a local chapter of an environmental organization, a regionally-based fishing group, a national-level recreation or tourism organization, academia or science-based group, or an industry association).

When ONMS considers this aspect of a nomination, we are not looking for unanimous support from all potential interests, but rather representative support from a diverse cross section of the community. In the context of the Aleutian Islands nomination, this could mean adjacent tribal or local governments, organizations or industries that depend on the resources in the nominated area, or federal or state agencies responsible for managing some of the resources or adjacent marine protected areas referenced in the nomination.

Similarly, the nomination does not clarify the level of support from the federal and state agencies listed as potential management partners. For management consideration #6, it is equally important to identify any offers of partnership from tribal governments, local jurisdictions, non-government organizations, or universities to assist in managing this area.



We also conclude that the nomination provides little to no description as to how this area provides opportunities for education, such as specific partnerships and commitments from educational groups. This relates to management consideration #2, which requests information on how the nominated area provides or enhances opportunities for education, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.

Finally, the nomination's description under national significance criteria #2 (submerged maritime heritage resources) states the nominated area "contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance...consistent with listing on the National Register of Historic Places." It then identifies several land-based National Historic Landmarks, as well as shipwrecks and potential archaeological sites that appear to all be within Alaska state waters. However, page 3 of the nomination identifies the proposed sanctuary to include "all federal waters along the entire Aleutian Islands archipelago (from 3 to 200 nautical miles north and south of the islands...)" As a result, the nomination seems to indicate both inclusion and exclusion of state water resources.

We understand the significant challenges associated with organizing support for an area that covers over 550,000 square nautical miles and over a thousand miles of shoreline. An alternative could be to consider nominating a smaller area or a series of smaller areas that encompass the specific resources you believe to be of highest value or for which a national marine sanctuary designation could achieve the greatest benefit. Keep in mind that the nomination process is a community-based process and hence the demonstration of wide community support weighs very heavily within the management considerations.

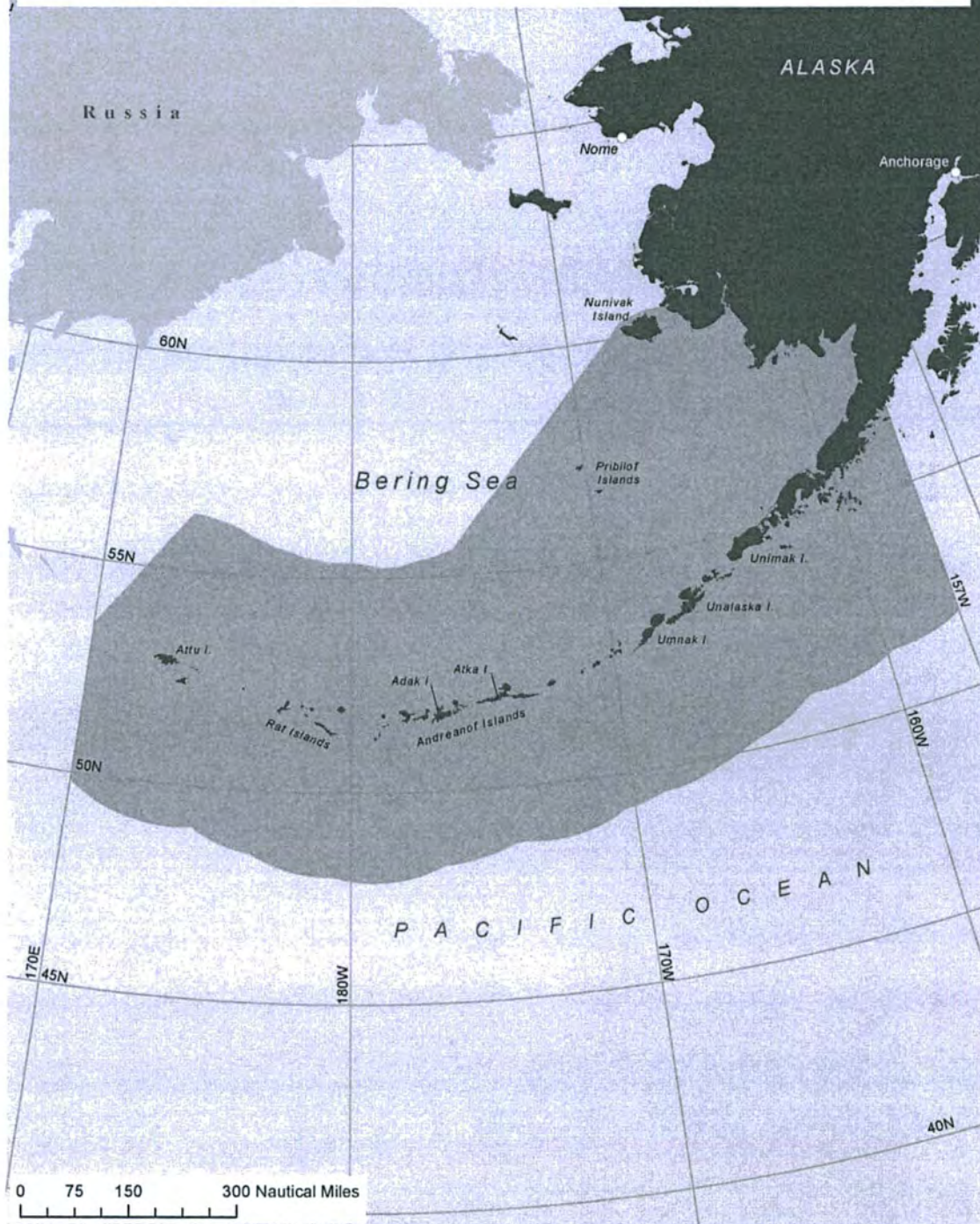
As you reconsider your nomination, staff from our West Coast Regional Office, as well as our headquarters, stand by to address any questions you have. We encourage you to review other nomination packages we have received and our correspondence with the nominators, which are available on the website nominate.noaa.gov. The process is transparent and you will also find our correspondence with other nominators on the website. Thank you again for your interest in NOAA's national marine sanctuaries. We look forward to continuing work with you on this important nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Basta". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Daniel J. Basta, Director

Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Boundaries



City of Sand Point



RESOLUTION 15-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAND POINT OPPOSING THE DESIGNATION OF AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has opened a process to nominate potential national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, a collection of outside non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have nominated an area greater than the size of the State of Alaska to be potentially designated as 'Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary' (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary nomination process clearly states that 'Every Nomination Starts at the Community Level'; and

WHEREAS, there is no local support from our community for this nomination; and

WHEREAS, the potential designation of the AINMS would make all current restrictions to fishing and other commerce permanent, and would authorize further onerous permanent restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, the concerns identified in the proposal – overfishing, oil/gas development, invasive species and increased shipping – are already being addressed by multiple agencies, local governments, industry groups, and responsible business owners and operators:

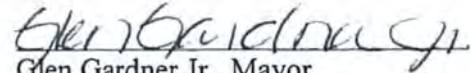
WHEREAS, the local people who have been good stewards of this region for generations object to the audacity of those who propose to designate this vast area, our home, as a 'sanctuary'.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Sand Point opposes the designation of an Aleutian Island National Marine Sanctuary and urges NOAA to reject the nomination;

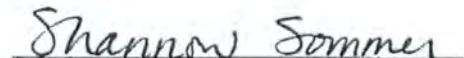
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Bill Walker, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Alaska Legislature, and to the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 13th day of January, 2015 by a duly constituted quorum of the Sand Point City Council.

CITY OF SAND POINT


Glen Gardner Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Shannon Sommer, City Clerk



RESOLUTION 15- 01

A RESOLUTION OF THE AGDAAGUX TRIBE OF KING COVE OPPOSING THE NOMINATION OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

WHEREAS, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove is a federally recognized tribe in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has opened a process to nominate potential national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, a collection of outside non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have nominated an area greater than the size of the State of Alaska to be potentially designated as 'Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary' (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary nomination process clearly states that 'Every Nomination Starts at the Community Level'; and

WHEREAS, there is no local support from our local tribe for this nomination; and

WHEREAS, the potential designation of the AINMS would negatively impact the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the potential designation of the AINMS would make all current restrictions to fishing and other commerce permanent, and would authorize further permanent restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the concerns identified in the proposal – overfishing, oil/gas development, invasive species and increased shipping – are already addressed:

- Fishing stocks are at record levels in this region due to good stewardship by local residents and management by the Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- Offshore oil/gas development has not occurred in this area for decades and is not feasible nor planned in the near future.
- Current EPA regulations already address potential invasive species issues.
- The Aleutian Island Risk Assessment project Optimal Response System will address increasing shipping risks; and,

WHEREAS, the local people who have been good stewards of this region for generations object to the audacity of those who propose to designate this vast area, our home, as a 'sanctuary', and,

WHEREAS, as part of our ongoing stewardship, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove has recently started a program "Local Monitoring of Ecologically Important Species in Three Aleutian Island Communities," in which the Agdaagux Tribe collects marine mammal and waterfowl data (including but not limited to : Stellar Sea Lions, Killer Whales, Northern Sea Otter's, Emperor Geese, Pacific Black Brant, and Stellar's Eiders) from local sentinels throughout the Aleutian Region, as well as data from our volunteer Aleutian Citizen Sentinels who are fishermen from throughout the region, and

WHEREAS, the Aleut people, including the tribal members of the Agdaagux Tribe, are greatly reliant on these waters for survival and have been for thousands of years, and

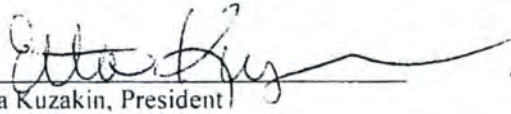
WHEREAS, the Aleut people take pride in being ecologically and environmentally responsible with our ocean's resources;

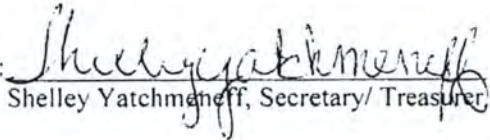
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove is **OPPOSED** to the nomination of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Bill Walker, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Alaska Legislature, and to the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Agdaagux Tribe on this 2nd day of January, 2015.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Agdaagux Tribal Council by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, this 2nd day of January 2015.


Etta Kuzakin, President

ATTEST: 
Shelley Yatchmeneff, Secretary/ Treasurer

AKUTAN CORPORATION



P.O. Box 8 AKUTAN, ALASKA 99553 (907) 698-2206 FAX (907) 698-2207

January 13, 2015

IN OPPOSITION TO AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Akutan Corporation strongly opposes the designation of an Aleutian Island National Marine Sanctuary. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) made the original nomination and it is now at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Although NOAA's nomination process clearly states that "every nomination starts at the community level" we were not consulted about this outside effort and we are not aware of ANY local support from our community.

The only entity from Alaska to sign this nomination regarding the Aleutians was the Eyak Preservation Council, which is funded by outside environmental sources with no affiliation in the Aleutians.

Aleuts have lived in our region for thousands of years. We understand how to use our land in a sustainable manner. Fishing stocks in our region are at record levels due to good stewardship by management agencies North Pacific Management Council (NPFMC), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and local residents. The Aleutian Islands region is subject to a Fishery Ecosystem Plan of the NPFMC, one of few such plans in the nation, to provide enhanced scientific information and measurable indicators to evaluate and promote ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries, and vibrant communities in the Aleutian Islands region.

Finally, much of the Aleutian Islands (277,100 nm²) is already designated as a habitat conservation area, and further protections are not warranted.

The proposed sanctuary would endanger our ability to work and provide for our families.

Sincerely,

Jacob Stepetin, President
Akutan Corporation



Akutan Traditional Council

P. O. Box 89

Akutan, Alaska 99553-0089

(907) 698-2300 / 2301 Fax

January 13, 2015

IN OPPOSITION TO AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANTUARY

The Akutan Traditional Council strongly opposes the designation of an Aleutian Island National Marine Sanctuary. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) made the original nomination and it is now at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Although NOAA'S nomination process clearly states that "every nomination starts at the community level" we were not consulted about this outside effort and we are not aware of ANY local support from our community.

The only entity from Alaska to sign this nomination regarding the Aleutians was the Eyak Preservation Council, which is funded by outside environmental sources with no affiliation in the Aleutians.

Aleuts have lived in our region for thousands of years. We understand how to use our land in a sustainable manner. Fishing stocks in our region are at record levels due to good stewardship by management agencies North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and local residents. The Aleutian Islands region is subject to a fishery Ecosystem Plan of the NPFMC, one of few such plans in the nation, to provide enhanced scientific information and measurable indicators to evaluate and promote ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries, and vibrant communities in Aleutian Islands region.

Finally, much of the Aleutian Islands (277,100 nm²) is already designated as a habitat conservation area, and further protections are not warranted.

The proposed sanctuary would endanger our ability to work and provide for our families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Bereskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Bereskin
President
Akutan Traditional Council



**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OPPOSING THE
NOMINATION OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has opened a process to nominate potential national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, a collection of outside non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), have nominated an area greater than the size of the State of Alaska to be potentially designated as 'Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary' (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary nomination process clearly states that 'Every Nomination Starts at the Community Level'; and

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly is not currently aware of ANY local support from local regional communities, tribes or local groups for this nomination; and

WHEREAS, the potential designation of the AINMS would make all current restrictions to fishing and other commerce permanent, and would authorize further onerous permanent restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, fishing stocks in this region are at record levels due to good stewardship by management agencies North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and local residents; and,

WHEREAS, The Optimal Response System recently recommended by the Aleutian Island Risk Assessment project will address risks associated with increasing shipping; and,

WHEREAS, the Aleutian Islands is subject to a Fishery Ecosystem Plan of the NPFMC, one of few such plans in the nation, to provide enhanced scientific information and measurable indicators to evaluate and promote ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries, and vibrant communities in the Aleutian Islands region; and,

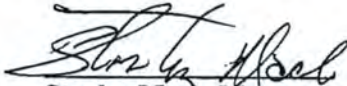
WHEREAS, much of the Aleutian Islands (277,100 nm²) is already designated as a habitat conservation area, and further protections are not warranted; and,

WHEREAS, the local people who have been good stewards of this region for generations object to the audacity of those who propose to designate this vast area, our home, as a 'sanctuary'.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Aleutians East Borough Assembly OPPOSES the nomination of the proposed Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Bill Walker, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Alaska Legislature, and to the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 8th day of January, 2015.


Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk



KING COVE CORPORATION

P.O. Box 38
King Cove, AK. 99612
907, 497-2312

Fax: 907, 497-2444
e-mail: kcc@arctic.net

January 21, 2015

IN OPPOSITION TO AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The King Cove Corporation strongly opposes the designation of an Aleutian Island National Marine Sanctuary. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) made the original nomination and it is now at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Although NOAA's nomination process clearly states that "every nomination starts at the community level" we were not consulted about this outside effort and we are not aware of ANY local support from our community.

The only entity from Alaska to sign this nomination regarding the Aleutians was the Eyak Preservation Council, which is funded by outside environmental sources with no affiliation in the Aleutians. Aleuts have lived in our region for thousands of years. We understand how to use our land in a sustainable manner. Fishing stocks in our region are at record levels due to good stewardship by management agencies North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and local residents. The Aleutian Islands region is subject to a Fishery Ecosystem Plan of the NPFMC, one of few such plans in the nations, to provide enhanced scientific information and measurable indicators to evaluate and promote ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries, and vibrant communities in the Aleutian Island region.

Finally, much of the Aleutian Islands (277,100 nm) is already designated as a habitat conservation area, and further protections are not warranted.

The proposed sanctuary would endanger our ability to work and provide for our families!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Gould".

Dean Gould, President

IN OPPOSITION TO AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

cc:

National Marine Sanctuaries, William Douros, William.douros@noaa.gov
Aleutians East Borough, Ernie Weiss, eweiss@aeboro.org
NPFMC, Steve McLean, steve.maclean@noaa.gov
NMFS Juneau, Sally Bibb, sally.bibb@noaa.gov
ADF&G, Nicole Kimball, Nicole.kimball@alaska.gov
Representative Edgmon, Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov
Rep Edgmon staff, Tim Clark, Timothy.Clark@akleg.gov
Senator Hoffman, Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov
Governor Bill Walker, bill.walker@alaska.gov
Kevin Sweeney, with Senator Murkowski's office, Kevin_sweeney@murkowski.senate.gov
Megan Alvanna-Stimplfe, with Senator Murkowski's office, megam_alvanna-
stimplfe@murkowski.senate.gov
Jay Sterne, with Senator Murkowski's office, jan_sterne@murkowski.senate.gov
Chad Padgett with Congressman Don Young's office, chad.padgett@mail.house.gov
Chris Fluhr with Congressman Don Young's office, chris.fluhr@mail.house.gov
Erik Elam with Congressman Don Young's office, erik.elam@mail.house.gov

Native Village of Belkofski
P.O. Box 57
King Cove, Alaska 99612
Phone: 907-497-3122/Fax: 907-497-3123
kcbtc@arctic.net

January 13, 2015

IN OPPOSITION TO AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Native Village of Belkofski strongly opposes the designation of an Aleutian Island National Marine Sanctuary. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) made the original nomination and it is now at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Although NOAA's nomination process clearly states that "every nomination starts at the community level" we were not consulted about this outside effort and we are not aware of ANY local support from our community.

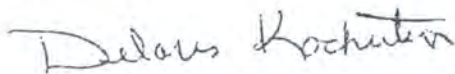
The only entity from Alaska to sign this nomination regarding the Aleutians was the Eyak Preservation Council, which is funded by outside environmental sources with no affiliation in the Aleutians.

Aleuts have lived in our region for thousands of years. We understand how to use our land in a sustainable manner. Fishing stocks in our region are at record levels due to good stewardship by management agencies North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and local residents. The Aleutian Islands region is subject to a Fishery Ecosystem Plan of the NPFMC, one of few such plans in the nation, to provide enhanced scientific information and measurable indicators to evaluate and promote ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries, and vibrant communities in the Aleutian Islands region.

Finally, much of the Aleutian Islands (277,100 nm²) is already designated as a habitat conservation area, and further protections are not warranted.

The proposed sanctuary would endanger our ability to work and provide for our families.

Sincerely,



Delores Kochuten
President



BOARD RESOLUTION FY15-04

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference opposing the nomination of the Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) opened the nomination process for National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) designations; and

WHEREAS, NOAA received a nomination from the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility to designate waters located in Southwest Alaska as the Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the nomination process set out on the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) website emphasizes that the nomination demonstrate broad support from a variety of stakeholders and interested parties; and

WHEREAS, good government policy would dictate that the most important stakeholders and interested parties are residents, municipalities, communities, and businesses that due to proximity will be most affected by the establishment of a marine sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, no city, borough, community or tribe in Southwest Alaska was involved in preparing or submitting the AINMS nomination; and

WHEREAS, no city, borough, community or tribe in Southwest Alaska has come out in support of the AINMS nomination; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe in Sand Point, the Agdaagux Tribe in King Cove, the Aleutians East Borough, Akutan Traditional Council, Akutan Corporation, and the City of Sand Point have written letters or passed resolutions in opposition to the nomination of the AINMS; and

WHEREAS, fishing and hunting activities in the AINMS nominated zone are already regulated by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); and

WHEREAS, astute management and enforcement by the NPFMC, ADFG, and USCG has created abundant world class fishing stocks; and



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 p: 907.562.7380 www.swamc.org

Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

WHEREAS, regulation of much of the proposed AINMS is already subject to regulation of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Marine Mammals Act, and designation as a habitat conservation area; and

WHEREAS, the Aleutian Island Risk Assessment project recently recommended The Optimal Response System to address risks associated with increased shipping through the AINMS nominated area; and

WHEREAS, further regulation of the vast AINMS area under National Marine Sanctuary designation would only lead to more confusion, conflict, and lack of clarity in the use of resources and support of transportation in Southwest Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the AINMS area have proven themselves to be good stewards of the areas resources for thousands of years without the benefit of NMS designation and have registered unqualified opposition to the nomination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors that it opposes the nomination of the proposed Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon passage of this resolution that it be transmitted to Governor Bill Walker, the Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives, the President of the Alaska Senate, the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors on this 20th day of January, 2015.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Alice Ruby,
SWAMC President

Doug Griffin,
SWAMC Executive Director