

CITY OF UNALASKA

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January 30, 2015

UNALASKA, ALASKA

Dan Hull, Chairman  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: City of Unalaska Resolution No.2015-10

Dear Chairman Hull:

On behalf of the City of Unalaska we are sharing City of Unalaska Resolution NO. 2015-10 in opposition of the nomination of the Aleutian Islands Marine Sanctuary by the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and other NGO groups.

The City of Unalaska questions if this nomination met the basic criteria as outlined in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, such as support from local communities, native tribal organizations, community development quota communities (CDQ's) or met the basic standards in the act such as the need for additional resource protection, that the area nominated lacks scientific research, or has inadequate management by state and federal agencies. The current fisheries management policies in place in the nominated area, managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game have resulted in fishing stocks at all-time record levels with no overfished stocks in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands. The huge region included in the PEER nomination already contains 425,000 square miles of marine protection areas, for the protection of the fisheries, habitat, and marine mammal's resources of the region.

This nomination appears to me to be a huge overreach by PEER and others organizations, to impact and halt fisheries, transportation and all economic activities off the coast of Alaska. The fisheries in the nominated area are the nation's most productive and regarded as the best managed fisheries in the nation. It would be economically devastating to the residents and non-residents whose livelihoods and subsistence needs depend on the fishery resources of this area if a sanctuary destination was put in place.

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Letter to Chairman Hull,  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Unalaska and other fishery dependent communities of the region would face major financial impacts to all revenue streams if the Aleutian Island Marine Sanctuary was designated. Communities would see impacts to employment in all sectors of the community, especially in the seafood industry that is critical to the health of these communities, as well as the support sector businesses that work with and support the activities of the seafood industry, this would include marine transportation sector that moves hundreds of millions of pounds seafood around the world, as well as future economic development of other natural resources of the area would be impacted.

In closing Chairman Hull, Unalaska feels the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council should be consulted at the earliest opportunity when any branch of the federal government is considering additional protections measures in the North Pacific, due to Councils expertise and outstanding record in the management and protection measures that have been put in place to protect the fishery resources of Alaska.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Kelty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Kelty  
City of Unalaska

Attachments:

1. City of Unalaska Resolution NO. 2015-10

CITY OF UNALASKA, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL STRONGLY OPPOSING THE  
NOMINATION OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS MARINE SANCTUARY

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

WHEREAS, the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and other Non-Governmental Organizations have nominated 425,000 square miles of ocean in Alaska to be designated as the Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska knows of no support from local fishery dependent communities, local tribes, governments or Community Development Quota communities as required in the nomination process; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska recognizes the current federal and state fisheries management policies have resulted in sustainable fisheries and economically stable communities which are totally dependent on the marine resources and seafood industry of this region; and

WHEREAS, the PEER nomination area already includes Federal and State protected fisheries habitat and marine mammal resources; and

WHEREAS, the designation of an Aleutian Island Marine Sanctuary would arbitrarily make current fishery closures and protected area restrictions permanent, and could lead to additional restrictions or closures not based on the best science, annual stock surveys and ongoing research; and

WHEREAS, the designation of this vast area as a marine sanctuary would do irreparable damage to the fishery dependent communities in the region,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unalaska City Council very strongly oppose the nomination by PEER of an Aleutian Islands Marine Sanctuary. This nomination should be denied based the lack of regional support, and the success of a well-established, science based federal and state fisheries management system.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM THIS 27<sup>th</sup> DAY  
OF January, 2015.

  
MAYOR

  
CITY CLERK



