



KAWERAK, INC. • P.O. Box 948 • Nome, AK 99762

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ERVING THE
LLAGES OF:
REVIG MISSION
OUNCIL
IOMEDE
LIM
GAMBELL
OLOVIN
ING ISLAND
OYUK
MARY'S IGLOO
NOME
SAVOONGA
SHAKTOOLIK
SHISHMAREF
OLOMON
STEBBINS
T. MICHAEL
ELLER
NALAKLEET
ALES
HITE MOUNTAIN

March 16, 2010

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2010

Doug Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
PO Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Re: Final Tribal Consultation Recommendations from the February 16, 2010 Unalakleet Meeting

Dear Mr. Mecum,

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with John Kurland and Melanie Brown (National Marine Fisheries Service) and Bill Carp (Alaska Fisheries Science Center) in Unalakleet on February 16, 2010 during a government-to-government tribal consultation regarding salmon bycatch and the Northern Bering Sea Research Area (NBSRA).

Please find enclosed recommendations from the tribes represented (Unalakleet, St. Michael, Stebbins, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, King Island, Elim, Savoonga, Gambell and Nome) at the tribal consultation with NMFS in Unalakleet. Kawerak is submitting these recommendations on behalf of the group of tribes represented at that meeting at their request.

These recommendations are similar to those that your staff received in Unalakleet, with one major addition. After participating in the February 24-25, 2010 Northern Bering Sea Research Area Plan Community and Subsistence Workshop in Anchorage, Bering Strait region tribes expressed an additional concern about proposed NMFS research bottom trawling in the NBSRA. No tribal consultation has been carried out regarding this research and we were not informed about it at the Unalakleet meeting. Tribes request that the 2010 research be postponed at least until tribal consultation and outreach activities have been carried out with Bering Strait region tribes.

Additionally, tribes would like to emphasize that subsistence activities are critical to all Bering Strait region people. Any actions that threaten, or may potentially threaten subsistence resources, habitat and activities are of great concern to us.

Lastly, we would like to thank the staff that attended the Unalakleet consultation meeting: John Kurland, Bill Karp and Melanie Brown. We learned a great deal from their presentations and participation. Bering Strait region tribes hope to continue an open relationship with your agency as we continue to work through these important issues.

Sincerely,
KAWERAK, INC.

m adwards for CB

Loretta Bullard, President

Enclosure

CC w/enclosure:

Kawerak region Tribal Councils
President Barack Obama
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Secretary Gary Locke, Department of Commerce
State Senator Donald Olson
State Representative Neal Foster
Eric Olson, Chair NPFMC
Chris Oliver, Executive Director NPFMC
James Balsiger, Fisheries Administrator, Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Myron Naneng, President, AVCP
Jerry Issac, President, TCC

Recommendations

To the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council from Tribes represented at the 2/16/10 Tribal Consultation in Unalakleet

Highest Priority Requests:

- Tribes want NMFS to postpone their planned 2010 bottom trawl research in the Northern Bering Sea Research Area¹ (NBSRA) at least until tribal consultation has been carried out
- Tribes do not want commercial bottom trawl fishing to be expanded northward into the NBSRA

Other Action Items/Recommendations:

- Want follow up from NMFS regarding today's meeting (2/16/10) – what will NMFS do with the feedback and concerns they heard here, what is their plan for additional action?
- Want the Department of Commerce to extend Chinook disaster relief to the Norton Sound area
- Want follow up from NMFS regarding the January 2009 Tribal Consultation in Nome on Chinook Bycatch (i.e. how were tribal concerns communicated to agency and department heads, how were concerns addressed/incorporated into final action, etc.)
- Want NMFS to support the tribal recommendations that came out of the November 9-10, 2009 Tribal workgroup meeting held in Anchorage at the RurAL CAP offices
- Want formal legal opinion from NMFS/NOAA/NPFMC attorneys regarding why the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council should not be held to the same Tribal Consultation requirements that NMFS/DoC are held to (i.e. Executive Order 13175)
- Want the Department of Commerce's response plan of action requested by the November 5 Presidential Memorandum regarding Tribal Consultation forwarded to all Kawerak region tribes
- Want NMFS/NOAA to make specific funding requests in their budgets to carry out tribal consultation responsibilities (this would include funding to hire an AK Region Tribal Liaison, funding for tribes to travel to meetings, funding for agency staff to travel to meetings, etc.)
- Want the pollock industry to be required to process and freeze all suitable salmon bycatch for delivery to and for the use of Western Alaska communities.
- Want more engagement by NMFS/NOAA into social science research – i.e. funding for research that both quantifies the economic contributions of subsistence resources to communities and the region, and examines the social and cultural importance of the resources
- Want NMFS to respond to specific request from St. Lawrence Island, King Island and Diomedes Island tribes to have the protected area surrounding their islands extend to a 100mi radius.

¹ This request was added after the Feb. 24-25, 2010 NBSRA workshop in Anchorage. Tribes were not informed of the proposed research until the workshop.

