

March 8, 2017

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501

Re: North Pacific Fishery Management Council – Outreach Trip to St. Paul Island
to Observe Halibut Dependency and Northern Fur Seal Management

Dear Chairman Hull,

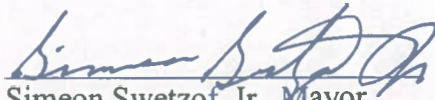
On behalf of the residents of Saint Paul Island, we wanted to formally invite representatives of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to visit our unique community. As we have recommended at recent Council meetings, the ideal time for such a visit would be the second half of June, or July, after the Council meeting in Juneau.


The fur seal rookeries and seabird nesting sites will be at their prime during the summer breeding season, and the local halibut fishery will be in full swing. This would give the Council an opportunity to observe firsthand the rich Pribilof ecology, which depends on the sustainable management of the Bering Sea's commercial fisheries. The Council will also be able to observe the community's dependence on the halibut fishery and witness the historic, and culturally important, fur seal harvest.


The agenda should include visits to the island's fishery-related infrastructure, and to the fur seal rookeries and seabird nesting sites. In addition, meetings with local fishermen, entities, and the community-at-large would give Saint Paul residents the opportunity to express their hopes and concerns, as well as understand the work of the Council -- which has such a big day-to-day impact on their lives and future.


We look forward to hearing back from you regarding potential dates, so that we can develop an agenda and make lodging and other arrangements.

Sincerely,


Simeon Swetzof, Jr., Mayor
City of Saint Paul


Amos Philemonoff, President
Tribal Government of St. Paul


Phillip Lestenkof, President
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn.


Jason Bourdukofsky, Director of Operations
Tanadgusix Corporation, St. Paul Island