



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 1663, Juneau, Alaska 99802

June 28, 1977

Colonel George R. Robertson
District Engineer
Alaska District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 7002
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Colonel Robertson:

Late last month we wrote to you expressing our interest in reactivation of the Saint Paul Harbor project in the Pribilof Islands. We believe that the number of fishing vessels in the area owing to expanding shellfish fisheries, imminence of a U.S. groundfish fleet in the eastern Bering Sea, and favorable prospects for plant construction on Saint Paul Island (if a harbor were constructed) require reconsideration of the proposed project.

In the attached paper we have attempted to provide you with new information to assist you in justification of the harbor. In our view the economic situation has changed markedly within the past 3 years. We have included:

1. An update on the crab fisheries; catch, value, and numbers of vessels.
2. The potential for the imminent U.S. groundfish fisheries as indicated by foreign fleet catches.
3. Indications of processor interest in plant construction on Saint Paul Island to accommodate the groundfish fleet.
4. A statement pertaining to village economy.
5. A description of a favorable U.S. marketing situation for groundfish.

We will be pleased to discuss the Saint Paul Harbor project with you at any time convenient to you. We are also prepared to assist you further if you believe additional study is required. May I ask that you inform us of your decision or proposed actions concerning the Saint Paul Harbor.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Rietze
Director, Alaska Region