September 16, 2018

Attn: Mr. Dave Witherell, Executive Director
Cc: Sarah Marrinan, SSPT Staff Contact
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov

Re: Nomination of Mr. Phillip Zavadil to the Social Science Planning Team (SSPT)

Dear Mr. Witherell:

On behalf of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, a federally recognized Alaska Native tribe located in the Pribilof Islands, Bering Sea, I would like to nominate Mr. Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager for the City of Saint Paul, to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Social Science Planning Team (SSPT). Mr. Zavadil graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Economics and has continued his education in an informal institutional setting within the community of St. Paul Island since 1998. As a resident and subsistence user in St. Paul for the last 20 years, he has connected with and learned from the land, sea, sky, wildlife, and our Unangan culture. Mr. Zavadil has come to know and advocate for the ecosystems that comprise this island and sustain the broader Bering Sea through observation and active participation in a traditional ways of living.

Mr. Zavadil was the founding and Co-director for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island’s Ecosystem Conservation Office (ECO) for 10 years. As an ECO Co-Director, Mr. Zavadil, along with founding Co-Director Aquilina Lestenkova, administered numerous environmental conservation and natural resource programs ranging from solid waste management to wildlife research and subsistence harvest monitoring. Mr. Zavadil and Mrs. Lestenkova together strengthened the collective Unangan voice in local management, research and documentation of local and traditional knowledge and build strong foundation with state and federal agencies that the ACSPI continues to build upon. Mr. Zavadil also directed the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island’s Department of Community Safety and Peace (DCSP) for 8 years. As DCSP Director, he helped the Tribe build up our tribal justice programs and services. In August 2016, Mr. Zavadil moved from the ACSPI to the City of Saint Paul as the City Manager. In this capacity, he continues to be rooted in community-based projects that are informed by local and traditional knowledge and works closely with the ACSPI to stay informed of and advise on ECO and other projects.

Mr. Zavadil’s social and economic education, combined with his decades of diverse experiences in our rural and Alaska Native coastal village will allow him to bring a unique expertise to the SSPT. The Call for Nominations outlines the need for expanded membership that will add expertise in Local and Traditional Knowledge (LTK) and its applicability to natural resource and fishery management on
behalf of a public organization; Mr. Zavadil is a strong candidate in this regard. Our communities are intricately connected through our Unangan culture to species such as the northern fur seal, Steller sea lion, seabirds and fish and invertebrate species; our community is also intricately connected to commercial and subsistence fisheries of the Bering Sea. For these reasons, Mr. Zavadil’s participation on the SSPT will bring both a general strengthening of interpretation, incorporation and recognition of Local and Traditional Knowledge and specific expertise from an individual that has a long history of working directly with rural and Alaska Native coastal villages and tribal organizations in the fields of anthropology, human geography, and sociology.

We are very pleased to endorse Mr. Zavadil for appointment to the SSPT and encourage you to consider him as a strong candidate. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Amos T. Philemonoff, Sr.

President, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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David Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
e-mail: northpacificcouncil@gmail.com

September 7, 2018

Re: Nomination of Phillip Zavadil to Social Science Planning Team at North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr. Witherell:

I am writing in response to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (NPMFC) request for nominations to the Social Science Planning Team (SSPT).

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I would like to nominate Phillip A. Zavadil, Saint Paul’s City Manager. Mr. Zavadil has lived on St. Paul Island since 1998. He graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Studies and Economics and has continued his education in an informal institutional setting within the community of St. Paul Island where he has learned more about the land, sea, sky, life, and culture in this island and surrounding system through observation and active participation in a traditional way of life.

Mr. Zavadil was the co-director for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island’s Ecosystem Conservation Office for 10 years. As an ECO Co-Director, Mr. Zavadil — along with his wife, Aquilina Lestenko — administered environmental and natural resource programs and projects ranging from waste management to wildlife research and subsistence harvest monitoring. Mr. Zavadil also directed the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island’s Department of Community Safety and Peace for 8 years. As director he helped the Tribe build up their tribal justice programs and services. Mr. Zavadil has served on the St. Paul Island Volunteer Fire Department for almost 20 years and is currently the Fire Chief. In August of 2016, he was hired by the City Council to be City Manager for the City of Saint Paul.

Mr. Zavadil’s diverse set of experiences in a rural and Alaska Native coastal village would allow him to bring to the SSPT expertise in Local and Traditional Knowledge (LTK) and its applicability to natural resource and fisheries management on behalf of a public organization such as the City of Saint Paul. Mr. Zavadil understands that the proper management of Alaska’s fisheries by the NPFMC includes developing policies that take into account and protect the vested stake of Alaskan fisheries-dependent communities in these resources. Communities such as Saint Paul, which are intricately connected at a cultural level to species such as the northern fur seal, and which are entirely dependent on the crab and halibut fisheries, cannot survive without such policies.

The City of Saint Paul strongly endorses Phillip Zavadil for appointment to the SSPT. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
Sincerely,

[Signature]
Jacob Merculief
Mayor, City of Saint Paul Island, AK

Cc: Saint Paul City Council
    Monique Baker, City Clerk, City of Saint Paul
    Simeon Swetzof, Jr.
    Phillip Lestenkof, President, Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association
    Amos Philemonoff, President, Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island