



Alaska Native Science Commission
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September 26, 2016
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Native Science Commission to express our strong support for the determination of the community of St. George to create a National Marine Sanctuary around the Island. The Alaska Native Science Commission was established in 1994 to bring together research and science in partnership with the Native community. It serves as a clearinghouse for proposed research, an information base for ongoing and past research and an archive for significant research involving the Native community.

The ANSC respects and endorses the St. George community's efforts to protect its home, its cultural heritage, the marine environment and the animals that depend on the sea. As an organization focused on the confluence of science and traditional knowledge we are especially supportive of the idea that a national marine sanctuary for St. George will create very significant new opportunities to combine research with local knowledge to address climate resilience and a host of other threats to the marine environment surrounding the island. As the former international chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, I also strongly support the right of the Unangan community of St. George to determine its destiny and pursue this important step toward ensuring a sustainable future for the next generations.

Sincerely,

Patricia A.L. Cochran
Executive Director