



Bering Sea Elders Group

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November 23, 2016

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros, Regional Director
West Coast Region
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
william.douros@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Douros,

The Bering Sea Elders Group would like to offer our support for moving the St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination to the NOAA inventory.

The Bering Sea Elders Group is an association of elders from 39 tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim and Bering Strait region. Our mission is to speak and work together as one voice to protect and respect our traditional ways of life, the ocean web of life that supports the resources we rely on, and our children's future.

Although the St. George Island nomination is for an area outside of our region, the Aleut people of St. George share a similar vision for tribal communities to sustain the marine resources that they rely on for food security, culture, and economy.

The community of St. George has nominated an area around the island as a candidate for consideration as a sanctuary based on its ecological, cultural and historical significance. Bering Sea Elders Group supports the process that would give the community the opportunity to be heard and considered through the agency's stakeholder-driven process.

Sincerely,

Harry Lincoln
Chair

Fred Phillip
Executive Director