

**Center for Indigenous Leadership and Lifeways ([www.gcill.org](http://www.gcill.org))**  
**3640 W. Dimond Blvd. Apt. 4, Anchorage, Alaska 99502**



October 4, 2016

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
Attn: Mr. William Douros  
99 Pacific St., Suite 100  
Monterey, CA 93940

VIA EMAIL: [William.Douros@noaa.gov](mailto:William.Douros@noaa.gov)

Dear Mr. Douros,

I wish to go on record as supporting the City of St. George's application for creation of a National Marine Sanctuary around St. George Island.

As you well know, St. George, as well as its neighboring village of St. Paul, are home to millions of seabirds, northern fur seals, and a shoreline filled with life of all kinds, and it is the home of Unangan people who have depended on the Bering Sea for over ten thousand years. The people of St. George want to protect this heritage for the world, for the U.S., and certainly for the coming generations of Unangan. This heritage is threatened by global climate change and heavy trawler activity today.

I urge your Department and NOAA to support this application.

Sincerely,

Ilarion Merculieff, President

Cc: [george@unangan.org](mailto:george@unangan.org)