



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 East Tudor Road

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FWS/R7/NWRS717-0009

William Douros  
West Coast Regional Director  
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100  
Monterey, California 93940

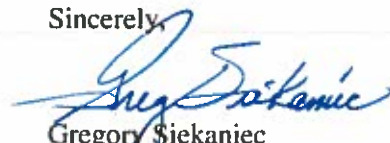
Dear Mr. Douros:

I enjoyed our recent discussion about the proposal by the City of St. George for a marine sanctuary in the waters surrounding St. George Island. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service support efforts to increase marine conservation in the globally significant Pribilof Islands, including this proposal for a national marine sanctuary.

In general, the proposal is excellent. It expresses lofty goals for increased research, attention, tourism, and community engagement on and around St. George. We also encourage an expanded proposal which includes St. Paul Island in addition to St. George Island. Many of the intense human/wildlife interactions, opportunities, and potential conflicts involve St. Paul Island as well as St. George.

The proposal contains minor inaccuracies on seabird population trends that can be corrected with help from the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge staff, who hope to be part of any collaborative effort to craft a management plan for a designated sanctuary. We look forward to being a part of any team developing specific tactics, especially those involving refuge lands, migratory birds, and other areas of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expertise.

Sincerely,



Gregory Siekaniec  
Regional Director – Region 7