

November 22, 2016

William Douros
Director, West Coast Regional Office
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey
California 939400

Via email to william.douros@noaa.gov

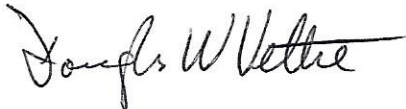
Dear Mr. Douros:

I would like to offer my enthusiastic support for the efforts of the Pribilof Islands community of St. George, Alaska, to establish a National Marine Sanctuary around its island.

I have devoted over 45 years to the study of the history and anthropology of the Aleut (Unangan) people of the Aleutian and Pribilof islands of southwest Alaska. My work has included numerous research visits to both St. Paul and St. George, where my efforts have focused on studying traditional and contemporary subsistence patterns, resource use, and land use. From this research, it is clear to me that the creation of a marine sanctuary would greatly underscore the mutual importance and inseparability of traditional ways of knowing and scientific inquiry. Further, by recognizing the shared importance of both Aleut cultural heritage and the natural environment, a marine sanctuary would facilitate the development of goals that can protect and sustain both of these well into the future.

I encourage your support for the creation of this marine sanctuary.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Veltre, Ph.D.
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