



Membership Resolution FY15-02

A resolution of the SWAMC Membership opposing the nomination of the Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) opened the nomination process for National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) designations; and

WHEREAS, NOAA received a nomination from the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility to designate waters located in Southwest Alaska as the Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the nomination process set out on the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) website emphasizes that the nomination demonstrate broad support from a variety of stakeholders and interested parties; and

WHEREAS, good government policy would dictate that the most important stakeholders and interested parties are residents, municipalities, communities, and businesses that due to proximity will be most affected by the establishment of a marine sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, no city, borough, community or tribe in Southwest Alaska was involved in preparing or submitting the AINMS nomination and that fact was cited by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries as a reason for denying the nomination as presented; and

WHEREAS, no city, borough, community or tribe in Southwest Alaska has come out in support of the AINMS nomination; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe in Sand Point, the Agdaagux Tribe in King Cove, the Aleutians East Borough, Akutan Traditional Council, Akutan Corporation, the City of Adak, the City of Unalaska, the Aleut Corporation, the Kodiak Island Borough, the Ounalashka Corporation, the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, and the City of Sand Point have written letters or passed resolutions in opposition to the nomination of the AINMS; and

WHEREAS, fishing and hunting activities in the AINMS nominated zone are already regulated by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); and

WHEREAS, astute management and enforcement by the NPFMC, ADFG, and USCG has created abundant world class fishing stocks; and

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WHEREAS, regulation of much of the proposed AINMS is already subject to regulation of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Marine Mammals Act, and designation as a habitat conservation area; and

WHEREAS, the Aleutian Island Risk Assessment project recently recommended The Optimal Response System to address risks associated with increased shipping through the AINMS nominated area; and

WHEREAS, further regulation of the vast AINMS area under National Marine Sanctuary designation would only lead to more confusion, conflict, and lack of clarity in the use of resources and support of transportation in Southwest Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the AINMS area have proven themselves to be good stewards of the areas resources for thousands of years without the benefit of NMS designation and have registered unqualified opposition to the nomination.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the SWAMC Membership opposes the nomination of the proposed Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 6th day of March, 2015.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



Alice Ruby,
SWAMC President



Doug Griffin,
SWAMC Executive Director