



**KENAITZE**

**INDIAN**

**TRIBE**

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September 5, 2023

Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

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9/11/23  
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RE: Request to move the meeting location from Anchorage to the Kenai/Soldotna area for the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Regulatory meeting scheduled for February 23 – March 7, 2024.

Dear Ms. Carlson-Van Dort,

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe has been an integral part of the Kenai Peninsula area for decades. Our ancestors have survived on hunting, fishing, and gathering. The Kenai River and the town site of the City of Kenai is the established ancestral home of the Tribe. The Tribe is a federally recognized Sovereign entity and appreciates the communications and consultations with the State of Alaska on resource matters.

Within the Tribe, many of our members have participated in and have interests as stakeholders in the Sport, Commercial, Subsistence and Personal Use fisheries.

We are also very proud of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Educational Fishery. The purpose of the fishery is to teach and preserve the Dena'ina way of living, made up of culture, tradition, and living with the land.

The Kenai Peninsula has not hosted a UCI Finfish Regulatory meeting since 1999. Many of our Tribal members have financial and physical difficulties participating in a meeting held in the Anchorage area.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that the Alaska Board of Fisheries reconsider the location of the meeting at their October 12-13, 2023, Work session.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe offers any assistance that you may need to accomplish this task and remains hopeful that our request will be heard.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Chelsea Hendriks*  
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Chelsea Hendriks  
Interim Executive Director