

January 8, 2024

To: Chairman Wood and Fellow Members of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Board of Fish

First, we want to express our deep gratitude to the Board of Fish (Board) for recognizing the unparalleled expertise held by the Indigenous People of Alaska. We commend the Board for creating a mechanism to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into fisheries management and look forward to participating.

We are comprised of the ten (10) Kodiak Island Tribal Organizations representing several thousand Alutiiq/Suqpiq People, who came together to form the Kodiak Island Tribal Coalition (KITC) to provide unified voice of advocacy for Kodiak Island Tribes. Currently, KITC focus is to conserve and protect the health and sustainability of marine resources in the Gulf of Alaska. We are working together to open access to marine resources in the Gulf of Alaska for rural villagers and small boat fisherman and providing equitable allocation of marine resources.



**KODIAK ISLAND
TRIBAL COALITION**

**KODIAK AREA NATIVE
ASSOCIATION**

**ALUTIIQ TRIBE OF OLD
HARBOR**

**KARLUK IRA TRIBAL
COUNCIL**

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF
AFOGNAK**

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF
OUZINKIE**

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF PORT
LIONS**

SUN'AQ TRIBE OF KODIAK

**TANGIRNAQ NATIVE
VILLAGE**

We respectfully submit the following comments on the SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN REGULATION OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES issued on December 6, 2023.

There is extensive data that documents the presence of Alutiiq/Suqpiq People throughout the Kodiak Island Archipelago for at least 7,500 years and is described in Cuumillapet – Ancestors: Cultures Through Time, a publication by the Alutiiq Museum of Kodiak Alaska. The archeological record contains the remains of bones and the fishing tools used to target cod, halibut, salmon, and shellfish along with marine mammals such as seals and whales.

The Alutiiq people have stewarded the marine resources throughout thousands of years of continual occupation of this region. This demonstrates our resilience and ability to manage and adapt to the ever-changing environment. We are currently working to overcome the severely negative impacts of natural resource management policies on our Indigenous People. We have regularly attended Board of Fish meetings for decades, providing expert testimony based on generations of experience in fisheries. Despite our engagement we have been unsuccessful in making any positive impact for our people and communities engaged fisheries management with the loss of access through privatization, declining fish populations, and a rapidly changing environment.

We offer that including Traditional Knowledge held by Indigenous Stewards will make positive contribution in domains related to climate change, fishing futures, and continuation of fishing as a lifeway.

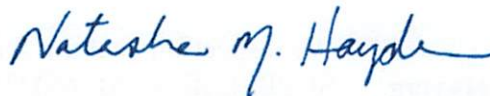
The Alutiiq/Sugpiaq People of the Kodiak Archipelago have always had a multi-dimensional relationship with fisheries and marine resources. In stark contrast modern management systems have separated out what is referred to as “subsistence”, “commercial”, “sport”, or “personal use” fisheries and removed the human/fish relational aspect. We believe that incorporating Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge is a step towards restoring that relationship and will benefit all stakeholders.

We are excited to engage with the Board in a more equitable way and look forward to working with you on behalf of our native communities on Kodiak Island and reversing the inequities that have been bestowed upon our Sugpiaq people.

Quyanaa,



Freddie Christiansen
Chairman



Natasha Hayden, P.E.
Vice Chair