

Aleknagík Natíves Límíted

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June 3, 2014

North Pacific Fishery Management Council 605 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 306 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Fax: 907-271-2817

E-mail: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Re:

Round Island Transit Corridor

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of Aleknagik Natives Limited, the ANCSA village corporation for the Village of Aleknagik, with regard to the proposal to terminate the seasonal Round Island Visitors Program and the Annual Marine Mammal Monitoring of Pacific Walrus and Stellar Sea Lions and Sea Bird Productivity Project. We join the BBNA Marine Mammal Program and the Qayassiq Walrus Commission in advocating for more Pacific Walrus protection on Round Island. Our traditional walrus hunters using Round Island note the need for more habitat protection from noise disturbance. They recommend that the Council include up to 12 nautical miles of no air-disturbance and no large vessel transit disturbance around the traditional walrus haul out at Round Island. The concern is that if there is no walrus protection at Round Island the walrus will migrate to other haul outs that are inaccessible to our hunters.

Walrus hunting is part of our subsistence way of life and we must act to prevent threats to the walrus upon which we depend and whose multitude we wish to improve for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Aleknagik Natives Limited

Bobby Andrew, President