



With Spirit and Strength

March 22, 2022

Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: APA Fisheries Committee opposed to Proposal 282 (ACR 7)


Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) is an Alaska Native non-profit consortium of the thirteen federally-recognized Unanga^x (Aleut) Tribes of the Aleutian Chain, Pribilof Islands, and lower Alaska Peninsula. APIA provides primary and behavioral health care, public safety and family protection, cultural and language revitalization and environmental advocacy and technical support. APIA's Fisheries Committee, comprised solely of Board of Directors, works through consensus on issues of regional fisheries concern. Finding consensus in our diverse region, where we actively fish and have direct financial interests in every species, using every gear type and all vessel classes, requires issues of great importance such as this one.

The APIA Fisheries Committee unanimously opposes Proposal 282 for the harm it would have on association member Tribes and their Tribal Members. Tribal fishermen from the Tribal communities of: the Agdaagux Tribal Council for the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, the Belkofski Tribal Council for the Native Village of Belkofski, the False Pass Tribal Council for the Native Village of False Pass, the Nelson Lagoon Tribal Council for the Native Village of Nelson Lagoon, the Pauloff Harbor Tribe, the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point, and the Unga Tribal Council for the Native Village of Unga, would suffer livelihood and financial impacts.

Unfortunately, on the other hand, no benefits can be assured for the Chignik fisheries or fishermen with the current state of the science and the mixed-stock nature of the Area M fisheries. Creating an additional financial disaster before the science informs specific fisheries management goals goes against Alaska's tradition of informed fisheries management. Please wait for the regular cycle next year to allow for science and additional proposals to enact management measures that accomplish the needed goal of viable Chignik fisheries.

Sincerely,



Dimitri Philemonof, President/CEO