

AKUTAN • COLD BAY • NELSON LAGOON

ALEUTIANS EAST



BOROUGH

FALSE PASS • KING COVE • SAND POINT

RESOLUTION 15-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OPPOSING THE
NOMINATION OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has opened a process to nominate potential national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, a collection of outside non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), have nominated an area greater than the size of the State of Alaska to be potentially designated as 'Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary' (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary nomination process clearly states that 'Every Nomination Starts at the Community Level'; and

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly is not currently aware of ANY local support from local regional communities, tribes or local groups for this nomination; and

WHEREAS, the potential designation of the AINMS would make all current restrictions to fishing and other commerce permanent, and would authorize further onerous permanent restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, fishing stocks in this region are at record levels due to good stewardship by management agencies North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and local residents; and,

WHEREAS, The Optimal Response System recently recommended by the Aleutian Island Risk Assessment project will address risks associated with increasing shipping; and,

WHEREAS, the Aleutian Islands is subject to a Fishery Ecosystem Plan of the NPFMC, one of few such plans in the nation, to provide enhanced scientific information and measurable indicators to evaluate and promote ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries, and vibrant communities in the Aleutian Islands region; and,

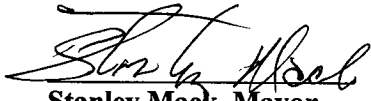
WHEREAS, much of the Aleutian Islands (277,100 nm²) is already designated as a habitat conservation area, and further protections are not warranted; and,


WHEREAS, the local people who have been good stewards of this region for generations object to the audacity of those who propose to designate this vast area, our home, as a 'sanctuary'.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Aleutians East Borough Assembly OPPOSES the nomination of the proposed Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Bill Walker, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Alaska Legislature, and to the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 8th day of January, 2015.


Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk