



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98115-6349

January 12, 2024

President John Melovidov
Tribal Government of St. Paul
2050 Venia Minor Rd
St. Paul, AK 99660-0086

Dear President Melovidov:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, 2024, pertaining to the “Postponement of Tribal Consultation on the NETS project.” We want to reiterate that we are very interested in moving forward with this Tribal Consultation. To do this, we would like to request clarity from the Tribal Government of St. Paul and other Tribes on the issues, topics, and/or questions that you are interested in discussing during this consultation.

From the Alaska Fisheries Science Center’s standpoint, during the consultation we hope to provide our Tribal partners more information on the NETS project goals and objectives, study design, timing and location. Additionally, we would like to hear and address Tribes’ concerns, and share some potential Tribal benefits of this research.

Once we have a better understanding of the issues, topics, and questions the Tribes would like to discuss during this consultation, we would like to work together to craft, in advance, an agreed upon statement of the issues to structure the consultation to better enable us all to achieve our mutual goals.

In addition, within two weeks, we will provide a detailed response to all the points you raised in your January 10 letter.

We look forward to hearing back from you on your key issues, topics and related questions, so we can proceed with timely scheduling of this consultation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Foy".

Robert Foy
Director
Alaska Fisheries Science Center



CC: Melanie Bahnke, President, Kawerak, Inc.

Dr. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Science Program Director, Kawerak, Inc.

Stacey Lucason, Tribal Research Coordinator, Kawerak, Inc.

Vivian Korthius, CEO, Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

Jaylene Wheeler, Executive Director, Bering Sea Elders Group (BSEG)

Erin Dougherty Lynch, Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

Sydney Tarzwell, Native American Rights Fund

Tribal Leadership for the Native Villages of Elim, Council, Gambell, Unalakleet, Savoonga, Wales, and the Nome Eskimo Community, Chinik Eskimo Community, and Stebbins Community Association

Dr. Cisco Werner, Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor for NOAA Fisheries

Jon Kurland, NOAA Alaska Region Regional Administrator

Amilee Wilson NOAA Alaska Region Tribal Liaison