



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

June 2, 2022

Amos Philemonoff
President, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government
Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
4720 Business Park Blvd., Suite G-42
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear President Amos Philemonoff:

Thank you for submitting the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) nomination for consideration as a national marine sanctuary led by the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island (ACSPI) Tribal Government.

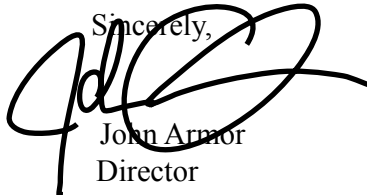
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has completed our detailed review of the nomination and determined that this nomination meets the national significance criteria and management considerations. Thus, we have added the nomination to the NOAA ONMS Inventory of Successful Nominations. As you are aware, this determination does not indicate intention to designate any of the areas identified in the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) nomination as a national marine sanctuary at this time. Rather, it is confirmation that the nomination has been included in our inventory of possible sites for designation.

State and local support is critical to the success of any nomination, and we strive for common ground on what a national marine sanctuary could mean for the Pribilof Islands. Given the connections that the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) nomination has throughout the Pribilof Islands, we would like to work with the ACSPI Tribal Government and the City of St. Paul, the St. George Traditional Council, the City of St. George, Alaska Native corporations, the State of Alaska, federal agencies, and other organizations to further consider the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) nomination and the potential designation of a national marine sanctuary. Furthermore, we would like to work with other interested parties, including state, federal, and Tribal governments for matters regarding potential co-management agreements and boundaries. In carrying out further coordination with respect to this nomination, as applicable, NOAA will fulfill its responsibilities under Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," and NOAA implementing policy and procedures.

ONMS Pacific Islands Regional Director Kristina Kekuewa will reach out to you to continue discussions about these considerations. We believe such a process would benefit the community, should the nomination move forward in the future towards designation as a national marine sanctuary.

Please contact Kristina Kekuewa (kristina.kekuewa@noaa.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John Armor
Director

