



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

May 7, 2007

Mr. Robert Melovidov
President
Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government
2050 Venia Minor Road
St. Paul Island, Alaska 99660

Dear Mr. Melovidov:

NMFS has received resolution number 2007-09 from the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government to issue a moratorium or change the northern fur seal harvest regulations. NMFS is interested in working with the Tribal Government of St. Paul via the co-management process to develop harvest regulations to meet your subsistence needs and NMFS mandates for non-wasteful, humane and sustainable northern fur seal harvests. We believe the best way to achieve these objectives is to further discuss with you potential changes to the regulations and not to suspend or remove the regulations.

My staff has contacted Mr. Zavadil and Ms. Lestenkof about opportunities in the next few months for a meeting among hunters, tribal staff and NMFS to discuss harvest and regulatory options, but understands your staff is not available at this time. NMFS recognizes, however, the importance of hunter and tribal involvement to ensure that any proposed changes to the harvest will meet the needs of the entire community of St. Paul. We hope to meet with you and the community sometime in the near future. Please contact Mike Williams to arrange such a meeting.

I look forward to working with you on this important topic and future actions related to northern fur seals and Steller sea lions on St. Paul Island. Please contact Michael Williams at 907-271-5117 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: John Bengston
Kaja Brix
David Cottingham
Tom Eagle
Tom Gelatt
Michael Williams

