

KODIAK REFUGE PROJECT

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Mr. George Divoky
Pacific Seabird Group
10535 Interlake Avenue, No.
Seattle, WA 98133

Dear Mr. Divoky:

Thank you for the testimony of the Pacific Seabird Group at the March 24th Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee hearing on the Exxon Valdez oil spill. As a consultant to Old Harbor Native Corporation, it was encouraging to see your organization's request to protect the habitat of seabirds on seven islet's owned by Old Harbor Native Corporation in the Alaska Maritime Refuge System.

Enclosed please find the list of islands in the spill zone proposed for acquisition from the Exxon Valdez federal criminal fund. Acquisition of these islets could be a key step in preserving critical seabird habitat in perpetuity and allowing Native village corporations located in the Kodiak bear refuge to realize economic benefit from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Old Harbor Native Corporation and the adjacent village corporation of Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. together own the "seabird belt" on the southeastern portion of the Kodiak bear refuge. The corporations are aggressively pursuing federal reacquisition of their bear refuge lands and are hosting journalists and congressmen and staff on inspections of their lands. We would like to invite greater input to this effort from the Pacific Seabird Group and would encourage a delegation from your group to visit the village corporation lands this summer, both to see the resources up close and to educate us on the resource habitat owned by the corporations.

Old Harbor and Akhiok-Kaguyak are cooperating with the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council as willing sellers and we look forward to working more closely with the Pacific Seabird Group. Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely



Tim Richardson

cc: ✓ Craig Harrison, Washington, DC
Martha Springer, editor, Fairbanks, AK