



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries | West Coast Region
99 Pacific Street, Bldg 100, Suite F
Monterey, CA 93940

October 1, 2021

Laurence Prokopiof, Interim Mayor
City of St. George
PO Box 929
St. George, AK 99591-0929

RE: Five-year Review of St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Mayor Prokopiof:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) added the St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (SGUHNMS) nomination to the inventory of candidate sites on January 27, 2017. NOAA's regulations for consideration of community-based nominations for potential new national marine sanctuaries indicate that a nomination will be considered active for a five-year period. NOAA has published procedures for the five-year period to assess if a nomination is still relevant and responsive to the 11 national significance criteria and management considerations used to assess sanctuary nominations.

This letter serves as the first step in our review of the nomination for SGUHNMS - to give the City as the original nominating party an opportunity to update ONMS regarding how the nomination meets, or does not meet, the 11 sanctuary nomination process criteria. Specifically, we are interested in knowing what has changed in the past five years regarding the resources and reasons for nominating SGUHNMS. For instance, there may be new information you want to bring to our attention about the national significance of natural or cultural resources proposed for protection. Or, perhaps management conditions have changed that may no longer require a national marine sanctuary to best protect the resources in the area. Your input will assist us in determining the degree to which the natural, cultural, historical and management elements of the nominated area are still relevant and responsive to the 11 criteria.

Please provide my office with a written response by October 29, 2021. NOAA will soon announce a plan to receive public input on the same questions. Our ongoing concerns about COVID-19 and in-person public gatherings warrant virtual meeting(s) to hear from the public. We will advise you of the approach that will best facilitate public input.

Please contact me (william.douros@noaa.gov) or Paul Michel on my staff (paul.michel@noaa.gov) if you would like to set up a call to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

William J. Douros
Regional Director

Olympic Coast
National Marine Sanctuary
115 E. Railroad Avenue
Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 159
Olema, CA 94950

Gulf of the Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary
The Presidio
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Monterey Bay
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