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May 8, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Mikulski, and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you prepare the FY10 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies funding bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following projects in my state:

Project: Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking System

Amount Requested: \$331,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation

Agency, Account: DOC/NOAA

Purpose: This request would fund the acquisition and deployment of a large-scale acoustic telemetry network in the Unimak Pass area as an initial demonstration of the system's capabilities and benefits to both the management of the Bristol Bay salmon return and the industry's ability to forecast processing assets needed. The Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking (POST) System currently consists of a series of lines of acoustic receivers anchored from shore to the continental shelf edge, spanning from Prince William Sound, Alaska, to Point Reyes, California. Data gathered by POST receivers can help answer specific questions about the movement, survival, and behavior of salmon at sea. While there has been substantial research on the in-river salmon habitat and behavior, little is known about the marine portion of the salmon life cycle. This request would fund research that would help fill this void in scientific understanding of the salmon lifecycle; this information will aid fisheries managers in better managing the fishery resource.

Project: Pacific Salmon Treaty Implementation

Amount Requested: \$8,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: The States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho

Agency, Account: DOC/NOAA

Purpose: This request would fund activities necessary to fulfill Federal obligations created by the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Federal Government relies on activities by the states and tribes to meet its

responsibilities under the treaty it signed with Canada. Funding for treaty implementation has been provided every year since 1985. Monitoring costs have increased in recent years at the same time that funding has declined. The requested funds would allow the states to continue ongoing projects to meet the increased obligations created by the 1999 agreement.

Project: Bering Sea Crab Management and Research

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOC/NOAA

Purpose: This request would fund state activities as necessary under the Federal Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The State of Alaska is delegated authority by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to manage these Federal fisheries under the FMP to ensure effective long-term conservation and sustainable crab harvest. Ongoing funding is needed to conduct biological research and stock surveys and to gather fishery information in the remote areas of the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea.

Project: Ice Seal Biological Research

Amount Requested: \$3,200,000

Recipients(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOC/NOAA

Purpose: The requested funding would allow for the monitoring of ice seal populations in Native villages and research on species delineation and the genetics of harbor seals. This continued monitoring is necessary to gain a better understanding of the population declines and to provide for population restoration. Declines in the abundance of these species has resulted in fisheries worth more than \$1 billion in annual harvests being restricted or placed under scrutiny for their effects on these species. Furthermore, the need for basic data on the four species of ice seals has increased substantially with the reduction of sea ice, which is the primary habitat of the species and the basis for a petition to list each of the species under the Endangered Species Act.

Project: U.S.-Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement Studies

Amount Requested: \$1,200,000

Recipients(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOC/NOAA

Purpose: This request would fund ongoing projects required to implement the Federal Government's Yukon River Salmon Agreement with Canada. Assessment and inventory of wild stocks is identified as an integral part of efforts to maintain, restore, and enhance the salmon runs. Allocation of the allowable harvest of salmon between the United States and Canada, combined with concerns for conserving specific stocks in a fully developed mixed-stock fishery, poses serious challenges to fishery managers in Alaska. The projects supported through this appropriation provide quantitative measures of stock composition, abundance, escapement, stock distribution, and subsistence harvest.

Project: Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Monitoring, Education, and Revitalization

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Agency, Account: DOC/NOAA

Purpose: The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFFA) is the only river-wide organization that brings together management agencies and subsistence and commercial fishermen from

the entire length of the river to discuss Yukon River salmon management issues. The requested funding will allow YRDFA to continue its monitoring, education, and outreach efforts, as well as its work to build consensus among subsistence and commercial user groups on complex issues, including reducing salmon bycatch. Historically, YDRFA has been supported through funding provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of Subsistence Management, and private donations.

Project: Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), Pinneped Research and Marine Mammal Rescue

Amount Requested: \$4,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska SeaLife Center; Seward, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: This request would fund ongoing research at the Alaska SeaLife Center to understand the causes of the declines in the populations of Steller sea lions and other pinnipeds, including harbor seals and northern fur seals. These species have experienced population declines approaching 90 percent in the State of Alaska. Steller sea lions and northern fur seals are listed as endangered and depleted, respectively; harbor seals are at low population levels. The Center is the only facility in Alaska capable of holding injured or captive marine mammals, and is the only stranding center in the North Pacific. Issues being studied by scientists at the Alaska SeaLife Center include nutrition, killer whale predation, reproduction, juvenile mortality, feeding patterns, and diet. Funding would also support a new focus on the impacts of climate change on the arctic ecosystem, especially as it relates to ice seals. The second part of the request supports the rescue of Steller sea lions, along with other marine mammals, a goal consistent with both the Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts.

Project: Moving Forward with Opportunities

Amount Requested: \$895,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska Native Justice Center, Inc.

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Program

Purpose: This request would support the Alaska Native Justice Center's (ANJC) ongoing work in the areas of legal advocacy, victim services, and enhancing restorative opportunities. Since its formation in 1993 as a non-profit 501(c)3, ANJC has assisted roughly 9,200 Alaska Natives with resolving legal concerns in the justice system at the local, state, and Federal level. As a bridge between Alaska's Natives and Alaska's justice systems, all of ANJC's programs are designed to enhance self-sufficiency and develop community-based solutions to local problems. Core services and initiatives include tribal youth re-entry, adult re-entry, court accompaniment, referrals for legal representation, alcohol and substance abuse education, and anger replacement training.

Project: Extended Continental Shelf Mapping, Planning and Engineering

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: The Law of the Sea provides that states have a right to claim an "extended continental shelf" based on the "natural prolongation" of the continental shelf beyond their present exclusive economic zone. The request would fund the planning and engineering phase of a project to collect the bathymetric data necessary to support a U.S. claim. The study will determine the most appropriate instruments to deploy to conduct the mapping and provide a cost estimate of the project.

Project: Alaska ShoreZone Habitat Mapping and Inventory

Amount Requested: \$1,360,000

Recipients(s)/Location: The Nature Conservancy

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: This funding would support the ongoing mapping of Alaska's coastal resources.

Approximately 50 percent of the 44,500 miles of Alaskan coastline has been imaged and mapped with the ShoreZone habitat mapping and inventory, with 80 percent of the imagery collection in Southeast Alaska complete. The imagery and maps produced by ShoreZone are used for oil spill contingency planning, conservation planning, habitat research, development evaluation, habitat impact assessment, mariculture site review, and permitting. More than 20 partners are involved in the effort, including NOAA Fisheries, the Nature Conservancy, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Information collected by this mapping will be merged with several large datasets that have been collected using ShoreZone survey imaging and mapping methods elsewhere in Alaska, British Columbia, and Washington State. The overall goal of the project is to map the entire Alaskan coastline, thus creating a continental dataset from the State of Washington to the North Slope of Alaska.

Project: Alaska Marine Debris

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation; Juneau, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: In 2006, the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act was signed into law. The Act authorizes \$10 million for NOAA for implementation of the program, including mapping, identification, and impact assessments, removal and prevention activities, research and development of alternatives to gear posing threats to the marine environment, and outreach activities. This request would fund the ongoing removal of marine debris and continued educational outreach to commercial fishermen, recreational users, and coastal communities throughout Alaska. Since 2003, more than 1,000,000 pounds of debris have been removed. High priority cleanup areas include the Arctic coast and sites contributing to marine mammal entanglement. Marine debris is cited as a mortality factor for endangered or threatened species, including Northern fur seals and Steller sea lions, and poses a threat to vessel navigation and human safety.

Project: Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission

Amount Requested: \$275,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska Native Justice Center, Anchorage, AK

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Program

Purpose: This request would fund the ongoing work of the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission. The Commission was created by Congress in the 2004 and tasked with developing and implementing recommendations to improve law enforcement and judicial responses to crime in rural Alaska. The Commission continues to implement its recommendations regarding the need for law enforcement and judicial services, regulation of alcohol traffic, and inter-governmental cooperation to address child abuse and domestic violence in Alaska Native communities. The consequences of substance abuse and lack of law enforcement and judicial personnel are critical threads in the declining health and productivity of rural Native communities in Alaska. Statistics show a growing overrepresentation of Natives among children in need of aid and victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and other crimes. The unique structure of the Commission affords an unprecedented

opportunity to engender dialogue between stakeholders and encourage improved collaboration and coordination among Federal, state and tribal governments to address these issues.

Project: Drug and Alcohol Interdiction, Rural Law Enforcement Training and Equipment

Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: State of Alaska

Agency, Account: DOJ, Grant Program

Purpose: This request would support the Alaska Department of Public Safety's Rural Drug and Alcohol Interdiction project, which focuses on preventing the manufacturing and trafficking of illegal drugs and alcohol and reducing their availability in rural Alaska through aggressive enforcement and community policing efforts. The requested funds would also be used to continue the Department of Public Safety's efforts to provide law enforcement officers, including Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO's) and Village Police Officers (VPO's), with basic and advanced training and emergency response and search and rescue equipment.

Additionally, I understand that in recent years the Subcommittee has chosen not to include Member requested projects in the Economic Development Administration account. Should the Subcommittee decide to include individual projects in this section of the bill, I hope you will give special consideration to the following project in my state:

Project: Kodiak Heavy Lift Dock

Amount Requested: \$2,500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Kodiak, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, EDA

Purpose: The City of Kodiak is working with the maritime and fishing industries to develop a large ship (600 ton/38 foot beam) lift and repair capacity in Kodiak. Once completed, this facility will make it more cost-effective for local fishermen to maintain their vessels in Kodiak. This project has broad support within the local community and the state. The first phase, which is currently underway, includes the procurement of a Marine and accompanying public, support infrastructure. The requested funds would be used to construct a heavy lift bulkhead dock. The heavy lift dock will provide the capacity to repair larger vessels by allowing the Travelift operator to detach and remove vessel's superstructures with heavy lift cranes prior to lifting the vessel with the Travelift.

Project: Marine Services Design Center; Chenaga Bay, AK

Amount Requested: \$1,665,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Native Village of Chenaga; Chenaga Bay, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, EDA

Purpose: This request would fund the construction of a marine services center in the Village of Chenaga. The center will consist of a marine services center building, with medical clinic / med-evacuation capacity, as well as moorage and dock space. It will provide fuel service, electricity, water, waste disposal, public telephones, internet access, and a high pressure washer. The center will provide a critical fuel and safety link for ferries, boaters, and fishermen in the area, including the Coast Guard, while generating jobs and economic activity in the local community. The center will also benefit local fishing fleets by enabling them to stay in the fishing grounds longer due to the availability of fuel, supplies, and small boat repairs.

Project: Marine Services Center; Wrangell, AK

Amount Requested: \$2,500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Wrangell, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, EDA

Purpose: Two years ago the City received funding from the Economic Development Administration to purchase a marine travel lift so that it could set up a dry dock marine service and repair area for the local fishing fleet and other vessels. The requested funding would be used to refurbish the dock and storage area. This project will promote economic development as the community modernizes its harbor and shore-side infrastructure to service the regional fishing fleet and visiting/tourist vessels.

Project: Haines Borough Waterfront Development

Amount Requested: \$6,700,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Haines Borough, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, EDA

Purpose: Haines Borough is currently working to expand its municipal harbor. It is also upgrading its existing basin, spending \$5.3 million during the summer of 2009 to replace inner harbor mooring features. Additional work is needed to develop the uplands facilities that will serve the commercial fishing fleet, the tourism commerce fleet, and recreational users. These improvements include additional working dock area, parking areas, boat storage areas, a new repair grid, restrooms facilities, and a new harbormaster office. This request would fund improvements that will support the community's access to Federal fisheries and lead to greater economic development in Haines Borough.

Project: Hoonah Marine Industrial Center, Phase III

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Hoonah, AK

Agency, Account: DOC, EDA

Purpose: The requested funding would complete the development of the Hoonah Marine Industrial Center. In FY2006, this project received \$3,000,000 from the Economic Development Administration. Site preparation was completed in 2007, and pier construction and the purchase of 220 ton marine travel will be completed later this year. The final phase of this project will include engineering and construction of a parking/working surface, utility building, and other infrastructure improvements.

I further urge the Committee to provide funding for the following programs at the requested amounts:

Project: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Amount Requested: \$90,000,000

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: Restoration and protection of Pacific salmon is vitally important to the economies of communities throughout the West, and in Alaska, in particular. Funding provided through the Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund is leveraged with state and local resources to initiate thousands of salmon restoration and conservation projects. In 2008, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration noted in its report to Congress, "Through the PCSRF and efforts and contributions of state and tribal partners, progress is being made in the overall recovery and conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Continued commitment, collaboration, and resources are required to achieve the overarching

goal of full recovery and sustainability.” The President’s FY10 budget proposes to terminate this important program. I urge you reject this proposal and restore funding to the fund.

Project: Anadromous Grants Program

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: The activities funded under this program are necessary for the management of recreational and commercial ocean fisheries on mixed stocks originating from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and California. The recipients of these matching grants are the fish & game departments for Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. Specific activities include stock identification and assessment, sampling, and data collection and dissemination in accordance with agreed protocols. The ultimate uses of these data are to determine harvest rate and to forecast impacts of fisheries on various stocks.

Project: Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: Invasive species pose a significant and growing threat to marine resources. Today, marine invasions result primarily from the unintended movement of organisms by human activities. Upon arrival, some species establish self-sustaining populations, achieve high abundance, and spread over large areas. Some invasions are known to have dramatic and unwanted impacts on fisheries and aquaculture resources, affecting local economies and recreational and subsistence opportunities.

Project: Hydrographic Surveys

Amount Requested: \$34,000,000

Agency, Account: DOC, NOAA

Purpose: NOAA has determined that there is a critical need to address the Hydrographic Survey backlog in the U.S., especially in the waters of Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico. It is nationally significant because the surveys benefit international and national maritime transportation, national defense, fisheries, and emergency response to tsunamis.

Finally, I request that you include the following bill language:

Project: Authority for the National Marine Fisheries Service to accept non-federal funds

Requested Bill Language: “For fiscal year 2010 and thereafter, the National Marine Fisheries Service is authorized to accept land, buildings, equipment, and other contributions, including funding, from public and private sources, which shall be available until expended without further appropriation to conduct work associated with existing authorities, including support of the orderly exploration and development of Outer Continental Shelf resources.”

Purpose: The lack of adequate funding and staffing for the Minerals Management Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for permitting and environmental analysis represents a significant bottleneck to energy development in Alaska, and may result in delays in the development of these resources, which are a critical component of America's domestic energy portfolio. One way to help alleviate this problem would be to allow industry to pay for some of the environmental work required for development to move forward.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests. I look forward to working with you as the Committee develops this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth McDonnell from my staff by phone at (202) 224-9306 (direct) or via email at elizabeth_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski", written in a cursive style.

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator