



Ninilchik Natives Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 39130
Ninilchik, AK 99639

Phone: (907) 567-3866
Fax: (907) 567-3867



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ADF&G
Boards Support Section
Board of Fisheries
Chairman Kluberton and Board Members
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Board of Fisheries
Chairman Kluberton and Board Members,

We would like to request that the Board, at the December 2015 meeting, decide to hold the entire 2017 Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting in the Kenai/Soldotna area. There has not been an Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting on the Kenai Peninsula for 16 years. Local governments, groups and individuals would like to see the meeting take place in our area as a show of support for our heritage and give our area a chance to show our hospitality to the Board of Fisheries.

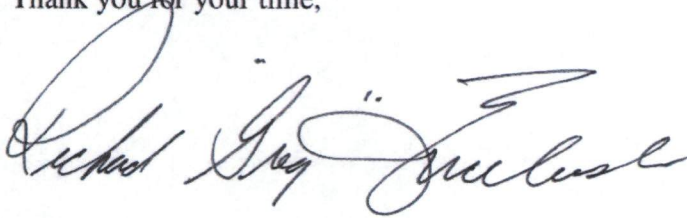
It is our understanding that the City of Kenai has offered the Board in-kind services amounting to \$60,000.00, if the entire meeting takes place in Kenai for 2017. Due to recent budget issues with the State of Alaska this supplement seems to be presented at quite an opportune time.

Unlike our sister cities to the north, attendance at BOF meetings for Upper Cook Inlet finfish held in the Kenai/Soldotna area have large wonderful turnouts. They allow our diverse elements of fisheries a chance to network and work out cohesive plans for all elements of the Upper Cook Inlet fin-fisheries. Anchorage is a long way off for the Kenai/Soldotna residents. Many commercial, sport and recreational fin fisheries are also strongly represented in the Lower Kenai Peninsula area year round. Many who make their living off of the fishery find extraneous travel difficult and taxing to budgets. Often weather is an adversary as well. We are an often overlooked aspect of this fishery system that not only has a voice but a desire to be active participants in meetings such as this; sadly we are often limited with travel constraints. Locating the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting in the Kenai/Soldotna area will allow for this portion of the industry to attend 1 meeting in 18, while those are not good odds the chance to attend at all will be greatly appreciated.

The history and heritage of the Upper Cook Inlet fishery is, and has grown from, the Kenai/Soldotna area. We are hoping that by hosting the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting in the Kenai/Soldotna area we will be able to share our values and ideas with others in a way that can help the ADF&G to better manage our region.

When tourists come to our great state, Alaska, they do not look to fish in Anchorage, they look to fish the Kenai Peninsula area. When friends and business partners from Anchorage talk of fishing trips and in-state vacations, they talk of the Kenai Peninsula. Moving this meeting to the hottest fishing location in our region is not just a good idea it is a great one.

Thank you for your time,



Richard Greg Encelewski
President/CEO
The Ninilchik Natives Association, Inc.
PO Box 39130
Ninilchik AK, 99639
907.567.3866 o
907.394.3668 c
greg@nnai.net
NNAI.net

Cc: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee
File