

October 11, 2016

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O.Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: 2018/2019 Bristol Bay Finfish meeting location and dates.

John Jensen, Vice-Chairman	Alan Cain
Sue Jeffrey	Israel Payton
Reed Morisky	Robert Ruffner
Orville Huntington	

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The Clarks Point Village Council humbly requests that the next Bristol Bay Finfish meeting to be held in Dillingham in 2018.

Clarks Point is a historic fishing community that is 15 miles from Dillingham across a section of the Nushagak Bay. The majority of our families are intrinsically tied to our commercial and subsistence fisheries, as it is the base of our way of life. If the next Bristol Bay Finfish meeting were to take place in Anchorage, it would be a financial challenge for many of our residents to participate. We have to take two flights to reach Anchorage, which could cost \$900 and this does not include meals or lodging. If it were to take place in Dillingham, it would allow us to stay with friends or family members that would lessen the financial impact on Clarks Point stakeholders.

We feel that the City of Dillingham meets all of the listed items from the Criteria of Consideration on Reviewing Meeting Locations. It has adequate lodging, dining facilities, ground transportation, and other amenities to ensure a comfortable stay. But, most importantly it has the necessary tools and infrastructure to conduct a successful meeting, which was illuminated when they hosted a visit from the President of the United States. Considering there has not been a Bristol Bay Finfish meeting in Dillingham since 2006, we believe it is time for the regional hub of Bristol Bay to be the next location.

The City of Dillingham seems like a logical choice as it strongly relates to the topic of discussion. It presents a unique opportunity for the new Board of Fisheries members to see the Bristol Bay area, including where Clarks Point is located along the Nushagak fishing district. An area that undeniably pulsates with fishing activity during the salmon season, which is literally right outside our front door and off the bluffs. Please consider the concerns from our residents and other communities surrounding Dillingham when deciding the next Bristol Bay Finfish meeting location. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Betty Gardiner
President