

Responses to the Bristol Bay Offshore Drilling Announcement from the Fishing Industry and Local Leaders

Tom Tilden- Chief, Curyung (Dillingham) Tribal Council- Dillingham, AK- Contact (907) 842-2259

"Protecting Bristol Bay from offshore oil and gas development is not only about saving our traditional culture, but also about saving thousands of jobs in Bristol Bay and America that our fisheries provide for. It is about saving the world's largest natural renewable resource- salmon- and all that it stands for."

Verner Wilson, Acting Executive Director, Nunamta Aulukestai- (association of eight Bristol Bay Native Village Corporations)- Dillingham, AK- #(907) 360-8591

"When Secretary Salazar visited Bristol Bay this past April, he heard overwhelming opposition from community leaders and residents to the prospect of drilling in waters critical to our subsistence way of life and our fisheries-based economy. We are thankful and gracious he took to heart the message that this is one of those places that's not appropriate for oil drilling."

Bobby Andrew, Bristol Bay Village Leader & Nunamta Aulukestai Spokesman- Aleknagik, AK- #(907)842-5983

"The people of Bristol Bay are thankful for the decision by Secretary Salazar but our message to Congress and the President is that we need permanent, permanent, permanent protection so this threat to our way of life is curtailed not only for the current generation, but also for future generations."

Karen Gillis, Executive Director, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association- Anchorage, AK- #(907) 279-6519

"Bering Sea Fishermen's Association has seen this area wedged in controversy before, with the buyback of a previous lease sale; at no small expense to taxpayers in terms of both time and money. This is a step in the right direction, but we cannot rest until these waters are protected in perpetuity."

David Harsila, President, Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association- Seattle, WA- #(206) 618-3824

"Bristol Bay's salmon resource is like no other on Earth and provides thousands of jobs to fishermen across Alaska and the west coast. Our organization and hundreds of member fishermen are thrilled with this decision, but want to see something permanent so we don't have to fight this battle again."

Keith Colburn, Bering Sea Crab Captain F/V Wizard- featured on the Discovery Channel's "Deadliest Catch" - Seattle, WA- #(206)-817- 4212

"Few places on the planet witness more severe and dramatic weather conditions than Bristol Bay. Clean up and containment of a spill there would be unequivocally impossible during a winter storm. Thank you to Secretary Salazar for protecting our nation's fish basket."

Bob Waldrop, Executive Director, Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association- Anchorage, AK- #(907) 223-1588

"The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association is pleased with this decision by the Secretary, as the threat of oil and gas development in Bristol Bay could severely impact our work to maximize the value of Bristol Bay fisheries. Our industry, communities and markets require that Bristol Bay salmon habitat remain healthy. Federal oil and gas leases in the area are inconsistent with this. BBRSDA continues to support efforts to ensure permanent protection of Bristol Bay."

Margaret Hall, President, Crab Group of Independent Harvesters- Issaquah, WA- #(425)-391-9304

"There is no level of risk that is acceptable when it comes to our nation's most prolific ocean food source in Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea. We are pleased to hear that the Interior Department has granted temporary protection for this important marine ecosystem. We urge to Secretary Salazar and federal decision makers to work towards permanent closure of our fisheries stronghold to oil and gas drilling."

Bob Bonanno, Bristol Bay salmon fisherman- Antioch, CA- #(925) 383-7539

"Being a third generation Bristol Bay salmon fisherman, I am extremely pleased to see that the threat of oil and gas development has been curtailed. The fact that this renewable resource would be threatened by development of a finite resource was not acceptable. Thank you Secretary Salazar for having the vision to protect this unique resource and the livelihoods the region's fisheries support."