

August 22, 2002

US Commission on Ocean Policy  
1120 20<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 200 North  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone 202-418-3442  
Email: [hill@oceancommission.gov](mailto:hill@oceancommission.gov)

TESTIMONY OF MONICA RIEDEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ALASKA  
NATIVE HARBOR SEAL COMMISSION, VICE-CHAIR, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
COUNCIL FOR MARINE MAMMALS (IPCoMM)

I would like to thank Senator Stevens, Congressman Young, and Senator Murkowski for recognizing and supporting the Alaska Native Exemption in the Marine Mammal Protection Act. I'd like to recognize my colleague Charles Johnson and I echo the statements he made yesterday in regards to the importance of subsistence to Alaska Natives. I will touch on three areas today:

- 1) MMPA
  - 2) Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
  - 3) Traditional Knowledge
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- 1) I serve on the Marine Mammal Protection Act Reauthorizing Committee for IPCoMM. We were asked by congress to work with the Federal Agencies of NMFS, USFWS and the US Marine Mammal Commission to propose improvements to co-management and Sec 119 of the MMPA. I am requesting your support of those carefully worked out amendments, which outlines management before depletion, shared enforcement, and local co-management plans with subsistence Alaskan Native hunters and their Tribes.
  - 2) As a casualty of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, I would like to see the oil companies finish their on going litigation with the local people affected by the oil spill BEFORE they are allowed to exploit more resources.
  - 3) Lastly, I call your attention to the brochure provided to show you how we as the primary stakeholders are conducting research and sound science to base management decisions on. The component we are most proud of is the Youth Area Watch project. This project not only perpetuates our cultural practices but when you combine the traditional knowledge of hunters with the scientific protocols that are being taught to students, you have a win win situation. Some of the students that participated in this project are now in college studying Natural Resource Management.

I encourage you to support participatory involvement by Alaska Natives through the co-management process, which in part is, based our long history of traditional knowledge.

Please enjoy your stay in our beautiful state. Thank You