

**The Alaska Coastal District Association**  
**PO Box 311**  
**King Salmon, Alaska**  
**907-246-3421**

April 1, 2005

Eldon Hout  
Director  
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources  
N/ORM 10<sup>th</sup> Floor SSMC4  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

**Sent Via Facsimile 301-713-4012**

Re: Continuanace of Federally Approved Alaska Coastal Management Program

Dear Mr. Hout:

As you may know, local coastal district representatives met with State of Alaska officials on March 30 in Anchorage to discuss the status of the proposed amendment of the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP). With a real sense that the fate of the program hangs very much in the balance, and despite having less than a week's notice of the meeting, representatives of all twenty-seven active local districts participated in the meeting. The dialogue was candid and, we hope, productive. The coastal districts were unified in expressing the strongest possible support for the continuance of a federally approved ACMP. We were pleased to hear as strong a commitment on the part of the Murkowski Administration to work with your agency and reach resolution of the remaining few points of contention to achieve federal approval of the amended program. Within the constraints of the law, we encourage you to continue negotiations with the State and arrive at preliminary approval by July 1, 2005.

The districts have in good faith been working for nearly two years now to understand and comply with the mandates of HB 191 and following regulations. Each district has expressed a commitment to meet the July 1, 2005 deadline for submittal of revised local plans to the State. We of course have followed with great interest and concern the negotiations between OCRM and the State. We feel it is of utmost importance to achieve as the end result an amended ACMP that complies with federal law and meets the needs of Alaska, and particularly the needs of the great many Alaskans who's cultural, economic, nutritional and spiritual well being are intimately tied to our state's vast coastal zone and bountiful coastal resources. We recognize that this will not be achieved without give and take on all sides and sense that opportunity remains to arrive at a successful conclusion that will ultimately be satisfactory to all parties.

In keeping with Alaska's constitutional mandate for maximum local governance, each coastal district welcomes and takes seriously our shared responsibility for managing our local coastal areas. We remain hopeful that the Administration will respond favorably to what it heard from district representatives on the 30<sup>th</sup> and in many other forums, and will restore to the extent HB 191 will allow a continuing meaningful role for local districts in the amended ACMP. To do so would not only be good public policy but would also be good for future development and would satisfy the desire and right of the overwhelming majority of our state's residents. Residents who reside in the more than 200 communities located within Alaska's coastal districts continue to desire some reasonable measure of control over the scope and pace of development that occurs in their collective backyards.

Thank you for your efforts and those of your capable and committed staff during this process. We trust you all will continue to work diligently and expeditiously toward preliminary approval of an acceptable amended ACMP, and stand ready to assist you in any way possible toward this end. If you have questions please contact me at 907-246-3421.

Sincerely,



Marv Smith  
Chairman, Alaska Coastal District Association

cc: Bill Millhouser, NOAA/OCRM  
Jim Clark, Governors Chief of Staff  
Tom Irwin, Commissioner of DNR  
Bill Jeffress, DNR/OPMP  
Randy Bates, DNR/OPMP  
All Coastal Districts