

ROUNDY'S, INC.

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April 13, 2015

Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman
Council Members
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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RE: Bering Sea Canyons

Dear Chairman Hull and Council members:

As a leading retailer of commercial seafood in the US, we are an important stakeholder in US fisheries and we are writing to convey our interest in ensuring that the health of ecosystems that harbor and nurture seafood, in particular the Zhemchug and Pribilof canyons in the Bering Sea, are offered adequate habitat protection.

The canyons are known to contain abundant and diverse corals and sponges that provide valuable habitat for commercially important fish and other marine species. Numerous fish and crab species depend upon Canyon terrain for spawning and nursery areas, making these habitats important for sustaining species populations.

In much of the canyons, corals and sponges often provide the only three-dimensional habitat structure available to fish and other marine life. Unfortunately, corals and sponges are extremely vulnerable to impacts from bottom-tending fishing gear. They are long-lived and slow growing; some Alaskan corals are more than 1,000 years old. When they are ripped from ocean substrate or crushed by fishing gear they are unlikely to recover, causing a habitat deficit that is difficult if not impossible to regenerate.

We depend upon your organization and others to ensure that fisheries in Alaska do not jeopardize the ecosystems that produce our seafood supply. Commercial fisheries can only be biologically and economically sustainable with a robust and healthy ecosystem.

We support proper oversight, monitoring and continued research of the Being Sea Canyons and we urge you to take this opportunity to demonstrate progressive leadership in ecosystem management and provide all stakeholders with an insurance policy that can help preserve biodiversity as well as ensure the sustainability of fisheries and seafood supply.

As a seafood business that is committed to building a market for sustainable seafood, we, along with many of our customers, have a strong interest in the long-term sustainability of the vital fisheries of the Bering Sea and we thank you for allowing us to express our view on this issue.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Mariano
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Roundy's Inc.

