

## Bering Sea OCS plans

*(Editor's Note - Our readers read a portion of Agafon Krukoff, Jr.'s remarks about proposed OCS oil and gas exploration in the Bering Sea in a front page news story last week. The Aleut Corporation President's comments are, we believe, well stated and merit close scrutiny by all concerned about OCS activity in Alaskan coastal areas. Additional comment by Mr. Krukoff is published here.)*

By Agafon, Krukoff, Jr.  
President

The Aleut Corporation

Anyone truly familiar with the Bering Sea knows that it takes a special combination of science and poetry just to try to describe the success and sensitivity of the biological fraternity that has evolved there. Undoubtably, similar comments have been made many times about other areas across the world which also faced the possibility of offshore oil drilling. But I submit to you that nowhere does the case against drilling have more validity than in the Bering Sea ... It is, in fact, an enormous aquarium which supports a gorgeous, silent flow of migrations unique in the world; really an underwater serengeti ... Into this unique and delicious brew, I cannot imagine introducing the potential for the equivalent of a runaway Mexican oil well or a helpless punctured supertanker like the Amoco Cadiz ... Along with all of this, to make matters far worse, to compound the risk of exploration incalcutably is the utterly unpredictable nature of Bering Sea weather. Taken together with the fact that the Bering Sea is a genuine living laboratory, it seems dead wrong, it seems insane even to blend the risk of oil exploration into this mixture. To do so, frankly, is to harness a time bomb to the fabulous clockwork of the Bering Sea.