AYK SSI PROPOSAL 2013

Project Title: Northern Bering Sea Survey

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Project Period: August 1 – September 29, 2013

Study Location: Northeastern Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea ecosystems

Brief Summary: The project provided a comprehensive assessment of the northeastern Bering Sea

and Chukchi Sea (NEBS/CS) ecosystems from the physical environment through the primary and secondary producers that support Arctic marine food webs to the numerous fish species utilizing the area. The study provided an unprecedented baseline for Arctic marine and coastal communities and for assessing the potential effects of future development and climate change on fisheries resources and the marine environment in the region. This information is required to manage fisheries resources of the NEBS/CS region, to assess the impacts on fish and shellfish populations in the NEBS/CS from potential exploitation, oil and gas development, and climate change, as well as to develop

appropriate mitigation measures.