

# DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



### Public Service Commendation

IN RECOGNITION *of notable services that have  
assisted greatly in furthering the aims and  
functions of the Coast Guard*

*This certificate is awarded to*

**Audubon Alaska**

*Executed this* 7<sup>th</sup> *day of* May 2018

*at* Juneau, Alaska

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. F. McAllister", is written over a horizontal line.

For the Commandant,  
M. F. McALLISTER  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Seventeenth District

# **Public Service Commendation**

## **to**

### **Audubon Alaska**

**For outstanding support to the United States Coast Guard to advance the Bering Strait Port Access Route Study. Rapid change in Alaska's arctic maritime environment, declining sea ice cover, and a steady increase in ship traffic through the Bering Strait focused intense interest in the safety, environmental and cultural impacts of the Bering Strait emerging as a new shipping corridor. In response, the Coast Guard initiated the Bering Strait Port Access Route Study in 2010 to examine the need for vessel routing and other protective measures to enhance the safety of navigation and protect environmentally sensitive areas. Audubon Alaska played a pivotal role in formulating a set of recommendations for seven hundred miles of shipping lanes, precautionary areas and areas to be avoided that will help protect 9,471 square miles of environmentally sensitive areas in U.S. Arctic waters that are heavily used by avian and marine mammal species. Well received at the International Maritime Organization, these new routes in the Bering Sea and Bering Strait have been recommended for worldwide implementation. The detailed input Audubon Alaska provided in comments to the study docket in 2010 and 2015 and the detailed analysis of alternative routes Audubon Alaska developed in 2017 was particularly useful as the Coast Guard formulated and finalized study recommendations. Audubon Alaska's subject matter expertise, especially on the spatial and temporal use of key habitat areas in this region, and the collaboration with other non-governmental organizations resulted in consensus based recommendations that greatly helped the Coast Guard manage this significant undertaking. Audubon Alaska's contributions to the Bering Strait Port Access Route Study are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.**