

need to have when it comes to dealing with this, because obviously, when the glaciers erode, that's also a sign of the amount of water that's being introduced into the oceans, rising sea levels. And the warming generally is having an impact on the flora and fauna of this national park.

It is spectacular though. And we want to make sure that our grandkids can see this.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1 p.m.

## Remarks Prior to a Boat Tour of Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward September 1, 2015

We're going to go out and look at some of these spectacular fjords on one of our Coast Guard cutters. But before we go out, I just wanted to mention that one of the things we've been trying to highlight during this trip is the changing nature of the Arctic, partly as a consequence of climate change. There's a whole series of strategic implications—economic and national security—and one of the things that we have to think about is how do we maintain our capabilities when it comes to maritime issues and commerce.

After World War II, we had seven icebreakers: four under the Navy, three under the Coast Guard. Today, in part because we haven't been reinvesting, although we technically have three, operationally, we really only have two, and only one heavy icebreaker. Just to give you a sense of contrast, Russia has about 40, and 11 icebreakers either planned or under construction.

Now, in light of the changes that are going to be taking place and the fact that we're going to be seeing more commercial vessels going through the Arctic, even if we're on top of the climate change issues, some of the change is already happening and is going to be inevitable. It's important that we are prepared so that whether it's for search-and-rescue missions, whether it's for national security reasons,

whether it's for commercial reasons, that we have much greater capabilities than we currently have.

So one of the things that I'm announcing today is a proposal to accelerate the construction of at least one additional heavy icebreaker and to work with Congress to make sure that we are producing a sufficient fleet to meet our economic, commercial, maritime, and national security needs.

And this is something that's been championed by Republicans like Senator Sullivan here in Alaska, but also Democrats like Maria Cantwell in Washington. We think that we should be able to generate some bipartisan support, although it's going to be a lot easier to do if we are not continuing to labor under the burdens of sequester that threaten our domestic priorities and investments, but also burden our military and our national security long-term investments.

These icebreakers are examples of something that we need to get on line now. They can't wait. And I'm looking forward to trying to work with Congress to make that happen. All right?

Enjoy the trip, guys. Stay warm out there.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:24 p.m. at Seward Harbor.

## Remarks Following a Visit With Fishermen in Dillingham, Alaska September 2, 2015

*The President.* Let me just say something real quick. Wait. Do I need—can you guys get—catch me from here? The—so, obviously, we're thankful for the incredible display of fishing

skill that has been built up over hundreds of years. And all the folks here engage in subsistence fishing, which is part of the traditional way of life for so many here on Bristol Bay.

Even though we've got a cloudy day, I think everybody has a sense of how beautiful this place is. And the scale of fish that come through here is remarkable. If you catch—or if you've eaten wild salmon, it's likely to have come from here. And this has some of the biggest salmon runs, sockeye, in the world. And it's part of the reason why it's so critical that we make sure that we protect this incredible natural resource, not just for the people whose livelihood depends on it, but for the entire country. About 40 percent of the wild-caught seafood in America is caught right here on Bristol Bay.

And it represents not just a critical way of life that has to be preserved, but it also represents one of the most important natural resources that the United States has. This is one of the reasons why we have shut off oil and gas exploration in this region. It is too fragile, and it is too important—

*Audience member.* Thank you.

## Remarks at N&N Market in Dillingham September 2, 2015

[*The President greeted store patrons and then made remarks as follows.*]

So the—one of the reasons we stopped by, along with Ralph, is just to highlight the fact that obviously this is a great grocery store, folks who do great work, but because everything has to be shipped in, the costs for folks living in Dillingham and a lot of the villages along Bristol Bay end up being extraordinary. You're looking at prices that are double, in some cases, or even higher for basic necessities like milk, like orange juice, like other produce.

That's part of the reason why the subsistence economy is so important and why fishing is so important. But it's also why folks like Ralph and some of the various tribal organizations are trying to do more economic development in the area in order to start making some of these things more affordable, but also having more locally produced stuff that can end up

*The President.* —for us to be able to endanger it in any sort of way. And this is something that obviously has strong support for the people whose livelihoods depend on it and for the people of Alaska.

But there are other threats to this environment that we've always got to be alert to. And hopefully, by us coming here, we're highlighting the need for us to keep this pristine and make sure that this is there for the children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren of all these wonderful fishermen.

So we very much appreciate it. And by the way, that fish jerky, outstanding. [*Laughter*] So I strongly recommend it. You guys should get some samples before you get out of here.

*Audience member.* Yes. Please do. Please, and you're welcome to have some more.

*The President.* Thank you, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:34 p.m. on Kakanak Beach.

cutting prices and create jobs in the region. So we're going to be working on some ideas on economic development in the region.

But in the meantime, if you need something—I thought the press corps might need to get some supplies. Feel free to grab something. We're not going to be here too long though. I'm going to be shaking some hands. All right. Thank you.

[*The President continued to greet patrons.*]

Well, it's so nice to be here, everybody. We appreciate you. And hopefully, I'll be able to bring Michelle and the girls back sometime soon. All right. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Ralph Anderson, chief executive officer, Bristol Bay Native Association.