

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of the Borough Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *JCB*
Brent Johnson, Assembly Member *BJ*

DATE: October 1, 2020

RE: Resolution 2020-073, Declaring a Local Economic Disaster and Requesting that the Governor of the State of Alaska Declare an Economic Disaster for the Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries Region and Supporting a Recovery Plan (Mayor, Johnson)

The 2020 Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon season has again been one of the lowest harvest of commercial salmon since 1971. The 2020 drift gillnet harvest was approximately 283,000 sockeye salmon, which was 86% less than the recent 10-year average of 1,649,779. The 2020 east side setnet harvest was approximately 295,000 sockeye salmon, which was 86% less than the recent 10-year average of 1,715,513. In the drift gillnet and east side setnet fisheries, the economic value of sockeye salmon was approximately 86% percent less than the last 30 years, and the lowest harvest numbers since 1975. This has caused a tremendous economic hardship in the fishing industry, as well as the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Assistance is very much needed at this time.

The mayor's office has received requests from United Cook Inlet Drift Association and Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association to ask the Governor of the State of Alaska to declare an economic disaster for the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries. A State declaration would enable it to support a recovery plan that provides direct assistance to commercial fishery participants and takes other actions to benefit all users of this important resource.

Your support would be appreciated.