



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

144 North Binkley Street • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Toll-free within the Borough: 1-800-478-4441

PHONE: (907) 262-4441 • FAX: (907) 262-1892

www.borough.kenai.ak.us

MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dale Bagley, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Mike Navarre, Borough Mayor *MN*

DATE: March 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution 2015-~~020~~, A Resolution Requesting the Federal Subsistence Board Take Special Action to Re-Open the Public Comment Period on the Decision to Allow Gillnet Fishing in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers and Authorizing the Mayor to Request Reconsideration of the Same

At its January 2015 meeting, the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) approved proposals FP15-10 and FP15-11, allowing the use of subsistence gill nets in the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers. This decision was made despite overwhelming opposition from multiple Federal and State agencies, citing critical conservation concerns about the deployment of gillnets in fresh water.

There has been general agreement from user groups and agencies over the past 15 years that gillnets were not a method and means that should be allowed in the fresh water rivers and streams of the Kenai Peninsula. There are existing methods and means for subsistence users from Ninilchik, Hope and Cooper Landing, including dipnetting in the Kenai and Russian rivers, which provide significant opportunities for the harvest of salmon.

It doesn't appear that the public was aware that proposals FP15-10 and FP15-11 were being considered by the FSB, as no written comments and only two public comments, both from the applicant, were received on an issue that is of great interest to the community.

This resolution requests that the FSB take special action to re-open the public comment period so that the public will have an opportunity to weigh in on this decision. It also requests that public testimony be taken in Kenai so that residents of the Kenai Peninsula are better able to attend in person. Finally, the resolution authorizes the Mayor to draft a request for reconsideration of proposals FP15-10 and FP15-11 on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Your consideration of this resolution is appreciated.