

Introduced by: Johnson, Bjorkman
Date: 02/04/20
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2020-012**

**ASKING THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES FOR DUE DILIGENCE IN
SUPPORTING BIOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF SALMON STOCKS IN UPPER
COOK INLET**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries is scheduled to meet February 7-19, 2020 to consider management proposals for Upper Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, salmon are essential to the economy of the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, seafood processing is the largest manufacturing sector in Alaska, accounting for 72 percent of manufacturing employment¹; and

WHEREAS, the first commercial salmon venture in Cook Inlet was started in 1871 at the Kasilof River under direction of Captain Joshua Slocum from the 110-foot sailing vessel *Washington*, owned by Nicholas Bichard²; and

WHEREAS, the first salmon saltery in Cook Inlet was started at Kenai in 1878 by the Alaska Commercial Company under direction of Captain James Wilson³; and

WHEREAS, the Western Fur and Trading Company established a salmon saltery on the Kasilof River in 1879 under direction of Captain H.R. Bowen³; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Packing Company built the first cannery in Cook Inlet, on the Kasilof River in 1882⁴; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Governor Alfred Swineford aboard the USS *Thetis*, with a crew of 98 men, visited Kenai in 1888 and left this report:

We left Kodiak on June 7 for Cook Inlet and arrived inside the entrance before dark. At 2 pm. on Friday. June 8 we arrived off Kenai and anchored about 5 miles out. We went ashore in the steam launch. Kenai is now a station of the Alaska Commercial Company. There are two settlements, one native and one creole, with a Greek chapel or Church and a priest. The creole settlement consists of 20 to 25 substantial log houses and the native town of about as many log, but mostly straw-thatched. A new salmon cannery has just gone into operation at the mouth of the river, and there I saw for the first time what are called Tyee salmon, weighing all the way

from 50 to 90 pounds apiece. There is another cannery at the mouth of the Kussiloff River ten miles south of Kenai, but we did not visit it⁵; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai River and its lakes are the primary sockeye salmon producing systems in the Cook Inlet⁶; and

WHEREAS, the Kasilof River and Tustumena Lake is the second-most (sometimes the third-most) productive sockeye salmon producing system in Cook Inlet⁶; and

WHEREAS, personal use salmon fisheries are essential to the people of the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, salmon sport fisheries are essential to the Kenai Peninsula economy; and

WHEREAS, subsistence salmon fisheries are essential for rural peoples of the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, all users of salmon are dependent on abundance of salmon; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has biologists with training and proven experience in managing Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks;

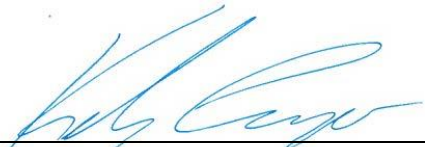
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. To urge the Board of Fisheries of the State of Alaska to base the setting of escapement goals and management strategies for Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks on the advice given by Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists.

SECTION 2. The clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to Michael R. Dunleavy, Governor, Doug Vencent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Reed Morisky, Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries, and all other Alaska Board of Fisheries Members.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

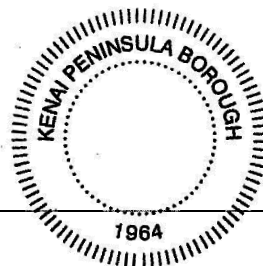


Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Sources

- 1- Welch, Laine. *A closer look at the value of Alaska's seafood industry*, Anchorage Daily News. Oct 22, 2017.
- 2- Johnson, Brent. *Joshua Slocum's 1971 Kasilof Misadventure. 150 Years: Proceedings of the 2017 Kenai Peninsula History Conference*. S.F Loshbaugh, Ed. Skookum Creek, Seattle 2017
- 3- No author given. *Kenai Fjords, A Stern and Rock-Bound Coast: Historic Resource Study. Chapter 9: Commercial Fish and Shellfish Harvesting*. https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/kefj/hrs/hrs9.htm
- 4- Smith, Hugh M. *Report of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries for the Fiscal Year 1921*. page 50 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Fisheries to the Secretary of Commerce. By United States. Bureau of Fisheries.
- 5- No author given. *Cook Inlet Shipping*. https://library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/docs/asl_ms39_4_5.pdf
- 6- Marston, Brian and Frothingham, Alyssa. *Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2018*. Table 3.
- Shields, Pat and Frothingham, Alyssa. *Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2017*. Table 6.
- Shields, Pat and Dupuis, Aaron. *Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2016*. Table 3.
- Shields, Pat and Dupuis, Aaron. *Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2015*. Table 3.

Yes: Bjorkman, Blakeley, Carpenter, Cox, Hibbert, Johnson, Smalley, Cooper
No: None
Absent: Dunne