

Introduced by: Mayor
Date: 04/07/15
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
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**

WHEREAS, the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB), during its meeting in January 2015 approved proposals FP15-10 and FP15-11, allowing the use of gillnets in the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers; and

WHEREAS, during that meeting, staff recommendations from both federal and state fisheries biologists, as well as agency recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Office of Subsistence Management and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, all cited critical conservation concerns about the deployment of gillnets in fresh water, particularly in the Kenai River; and

WHEREAS, the decision by the FSB allowing gillnets in the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers will limit the ability of resource managers to regulate these fisheries in heavily used areas; and

WHEREAS, over the past 15 years, multiple facilitated working group discussions including representatives from broad interest groups have resulted in a general agreement that gillnets are not a method and means that should be used in the rivers and streams of the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Ninilchik, Hope and Cooper Landing communities already have significant opportunity to harvest salmon in the Kenai River, including dipnetting in reaches of the river that are off-limits to non-subsistence users; and

WHEREAS, subsistence users are also allowed to dipnet below the Russian River Falls, a tributary to the Kenai River; and

WHEREAS, the Ninilchik community also has the opportunity to fish four educational gillnets in the marine waters at the mouth of the Ninilchik River; and

WHEREAS, it does not 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 oral public comments, both from the applicant, were received on an issue that is of great interest to the community; and

WHEREAS, re-opening the public comment period for these proposals would provide the FSB with information that was not available to it when originally making its decision;

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

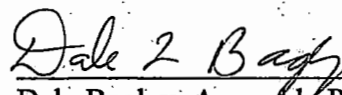
SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly requests the Federal Subsistence Board take special action to re-open the public comment period for oral and written comments on FP15-10 and FP15-11, proposals to allow gillnetting in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly further requests that the public comment testimony be held in Kenai or Soldotna, Alaska to allow the greatest opportunity for local residents to testify.

SECTION 3. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly authorizes the Borough Mayor to submit a request for reconsideration of proposals FP15-10 and FP15-11 on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

SECTION 4. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2015.


Dale Bagley, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Haggerty, Gilman, Johnson, McClure, Ogle, Welles, Wolf, Bagley
No: None
Absent: None