

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Dale Bagley, Assembly Member *DLB*

DATE: January 24, 2019

RE: Resolution 2019-013, Requesting the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting 2020 be Held on the Kenai Peninsula (Bagley)

The Upper Cook Inlet ("UCI") Finfish Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting has not been hosted on the Kenai Peninsula since 1999. Kenai Peninsula residents and businesses have an enormous interest in the fisheries management, strategies and practices which are developed by the Board of Fisheries during their meetings regarding the UCI Finfish.

During its meeting of February 2, 2018, the Board of Fish published notice that they intended to revisit the 2020 UCI Finfish Meeting location at its March 6-9, 2018 meeting in Anchorage. They provided the public more than 30 days' notice which gave the public time to submit comments well in advance of the meeting. The board then passed a motion to conduct the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting on the Kenai Peninsula.

However, during its January 18, 2019 meeting, with no advance public notice prior to public testimony being closed, the board chair indicated that the board would again take up the issue of the location of the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting. Upon hearing that, some Kenai Peninsula public officials traveled to Anchorage intending to express concerns and discuss this matter with the board members. They have indicated they were strongly ensured by the board chair the matter would not be raised and left after receiving those assurances. They later heard that the board voted to move the 2020 UCI finfish meeting back to Anchorage shortly after they left, without any opportunity for public testimony. This resolution requests that the board rescind that action, revisit the issue with more than 30 days' notice, and again schedule the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting be held on the central Kenai Peninsula. Your support would be appreciated.