

Introduced by:	Morton, Dunne, Tunseth, Johnson, Ecklund, Cox
Date:	04/15/25
Action:	Adopted
Vote:	9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2025-018**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE U.S.
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION TO
ADDRESS OUTAGES OF NATIONAL DATA BUOY CENTER STATIONS**

- WHEREAS,** the primary function of National Data Buoy Center meteorological/ocean stations is to collect and disseminate in situ, real-time, quality-controlled observations in the marine environment to ensure the nation's maritime safety and to understand and predict the atmosphere, ocean, waves, ice, and climate; and
- WHEREAS,** because of the Kenai Peninsula's extensive coastline, vital fishing and tourism industries, dependence on marine commerce, and reliance on imports and exports by sea, the performance of National Data Buoy Center meteorological/ocean stations is critical to the citizens and economy of the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and
- WHEREAS,** information from National Data Buoy Center meteorological/ocean stations is used by mariners and authorities to determine when conditions for navigation are safe; and
- WHEREAS,** weather-related closures are determined by the United States Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service Prince William Sound; and
- WHEREAS,** the Vessel Traffic Service uses the National Data Buoy Center Seal Rocks Buoy as the primary source of information to make weather-related closure decisions for Prince William Sound; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seal Rocks Buoy has not been fully functional since October 2023; and
- WHEREAS,** a functional buoy system is critical to the safety of Alaskans and mariners; and
- WHEREAS,** a functional buoy system is critical to the safe transportation of oil, gas, and goods; and
- WHEREAS,** an oil spill resulting from a tanker incident would have disastrous consequences on the regional environment, local ecosystems, subsistence lifestyles, Alaska Native villages, and economies of Kenai Peninsula communities and businesses that rely on fishing, aquaculture, tourism, and other commercial or recreational ocean activities;

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

SECTION 1. That the Assembly urges the United States Congress to include language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2025, to address National Data Buoy Center meteorological/ocean station outages occurring in Alaska and specifically to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to ensure the reliability of National Data Buoy Center meteorological/ocean stations and take actions necessary to restore the full functionality of National Data Buoy Center meteorological/ocean station equipment.

SECTION 2. That the Assembly urges the United States Congress to maintain and enhance the critical public service the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides to mariners, authorities, and other users on the Kenai Peninsula through the observation and forecasting functions of the National Weather Service, including National Data Buoy Center meteorological/ocean stations.

SECTION 3. That a copy of this resolution will be provided to: the Alaska Congressional delegation, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Representative Nicholas Begich; and, Dr. William Burnett, Director of the National Data Buoy Center; Commander Sarah Rousseau, United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Valdez; David Seris, United States Coast Guard, District 17 Waterways Management.

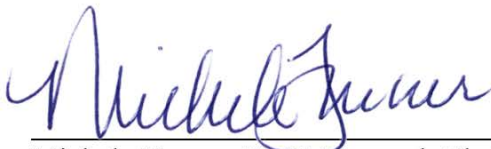
SECTION 4. That this resolution is effective immediately.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 15TH DAY OF APRIL, 2025.

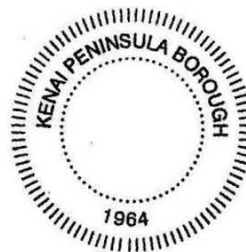


Peter Ribbens, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Baisden, Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens
No: None
Absent: None