

Introduced by: Mayor, Haggerty, Johnson  
Date: 02/24/15  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2015-011**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REDUCE HALIBUT AND SALMON BYCATCH LIMITS  
FOR THE BERING SEA AND GULF OF ALASKA TRAWL FISHERIES**

- WHEREAS,** the halibut and Chinook salmon fisheries are of critical importance to Alaska's subsistence, sport, and commercial fishermen; and
- WHEREAS,** communities of the Kenai Peninsula Borough depend on Alaska's salmon and halibut resources for sustenance, recreation and livelihood, and
- WHEREAS,** the abundance of North Pacific halibut and Chinook salmon has declined significantly over the past two decades; and
- WHEREAS,** Chinook salmon bycatch caps in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery were most recently set in excess of the average bycatch rates at that time; and
- WHEREAS,** commercial catch limits for halibut in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea have been reduced by 70 percent over the past decade in order to conserve halibut stocks; and
- WHEREAS,** the daily halibut catch available to charter clients in the Gulf of Alaska has been reduced by 50 percent in some areas; and
- WHEREAS,** halibut bycatch limits for trawl fisheries operating in the Gulf of Alaska have been reduced by only 15 percent over the same time period; and
- WHEREAS,** observer coverage of Gulf of Alaska trawl catch fell 50 percent between 2013 and 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** halibut bycatch limits for trawl fisheries operating in the Bering Sea have not been significantly reduced for 30 years; and
- WHEREAS,** trawl bycatch of halibut in the Central Bering Sea is now more than 10 times the catch allocated to historic halibut harvesters in the area;

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

**SECTION 1.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests immediate action by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce halibut bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries by not less than 35 percent in the Gulf of Alaska and not less than 50 percent in the Bering Sea.

**SECTION 2.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests immediate action by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce salmon bycatch by lowering the chinook salmon cap for the Bering Sea Pollock fishery by not less than 50 percent.

**SECTION 3.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests immediate action by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to increase observer coverage on Gulf of Alaska trawlers to 100 percent and to maintain observer coverage on Bering Sea trawlers at not less than 100 percent.

**SECTION 4.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests Governor Walker to nominate Alaskans to serve on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in March in keeping with the "Alaska first" principles of fisheries management that protects our fishery resources and the fishermen and fishing communities dependent on those resources.

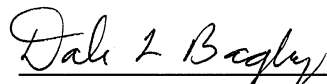
**SECTION 5.** That copies of this resolution shall be sent to all members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Honorable Bill Walker, Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska State Senate and House, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and regional Tribal entities within the State of Alaska.

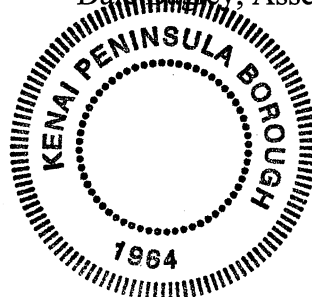
**SECTION 6.** That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015.**

ATTEST:

  
John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

  
Dale Bagley, Assembly President



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