

Introduced by: Borough Assembly
Date: 12/01/20
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2020-081**

**A RESOLUTION ASKING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL NOT TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 4, WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT
COMMERCIAL FISHING IN THE COOK INLET EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE**

- WHEREAS,** the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act or MSA) directs the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to prepare a fishery management plan for each fishery under its authority that requires conservation and management; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council is considering an action at its December 4, 7-11, 2020 meetings that would select a preferred alternative to amend the Fishery Management Plan for the salmon fisheries that occur in waters of Cook Inlet; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council is considering four alternatives that would affect commercial salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and
- WHEREAS,** the commercial fishing industry has been an important economic activity for 138 years, providing many jobs for Kenai Peninsula residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the commercial fishing industry provides a large tax base for the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the form of property taxes, personal property taxes and raw fish tax; and
- WHEREAS,** commercial fishing in the EEZ has occurred to some extent for over a hundred years, it has been a main area for salmon harvest since 1947; and
- WHEREAS,** for the existing processors to produce a high quality product it is important that they receive fish in an orderly and timely fashion; and
- WHEREAS,** the drift fleet in Cook Inlet is an integral gear group that has a substantial harvest in the lower inlet (overlapping with the EEZ); and
- WHEREAS,** Alternative 4 was introduced at the October 12, 2020 meeting, after public testimony had concluded, just before the end of this agenda item, and has not been publicly vetted; and

WHEREAS, the local borough government has expressed interest in maintaining a healthy economy and jobs would be reduced if Alternative 4 were adopted; and

WHEREAS, if Alternative 4 is adopted it would eliminate jobs in the commercial fishing and processing sectors, and eliminate jobs in all the support industries and cause harm to all the coastal communities in the Kenai Peninsula Borough;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly asks the North Pacific Management Council not to adopt alternative 4.

SECTION 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2020.

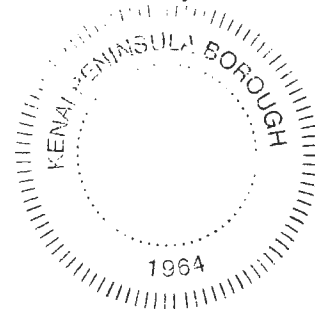


Brent Hibbert, Assembly President

ATTEST:



John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bjorkman, Carpenter, Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Dunne, Elam, Johnson, Hibbert

No: None

Absent: None