

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*

DATE: May 5, 2022

RE: Resolution 2022-034 Urging the State of Alaska and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to Adopt Aggressive Measures To Reduce Commercial Fishing "Bycatch" in Alaska Halibut and Salmon Fisheries (Mayor)

The term "bycatch" is a created term, defined under Federal law as "fish that are harvested in a fishery but which are not sold or kept for personal use" but what the nice-sounding word softens is the truth. Bycatch really means discarded and killed fish.

The effect of poorly managed and loose regulations regarding fishing "bycatch" has ramifications around the whole state of Alaska (State): from the sport fishers hoping to catch that prized salmon, to the halibut fisherman simply trying to bring home a tasty meal, to the commercial halibut or salmon fishers trying to earn a living and harvest one of the State's most prized resources.

Everyone suffers as a result of "bycatch" policy failures. That is, everyone but the largely Seattle-based industrial trawler fleet.

This resolution urges State and Federal action to stop the destruction of the Alaska fishing industry. This resolution urges State and Federal action to set more restrictive guidelines, but also to find creative solutions to the problem. Regardless of the approach used, Alaskans need results. Our fisheries depend on it.

Your consideration of this resolution is appreciated.