

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 2024-026

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE 2026 AND 2027 COOK INLET FINFISH REGULATORY MEETINGS BE HELD IN SOLDOTNA, ALASKA, TO PROVIDE RESOURCE STAKEHOLDERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PRESENT AT PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the functions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner are to manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state; and

WHEREAS, the legislature created the seven-member Fisheries Board in 1975 with the purpose of conservation and development of fisheries and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory authority must work alongside all stakeholders, including industry leaders and local, tribal, and borough organizations, to protect the Kenai Peninsula's natural resources, communicate regulatory needs, and receive critical stakeholder engagement to find best-suited options for the highest economic returns on investment revolving around the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon system; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula waterways of the Kenai, Kasilof, and Susitna Rivers and Fish Creek are the entry points to significant sockeye salmon systems in Upper Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, the Kasilof River and Tustumena Lake are the second-most (sometimes the third-most) productive sockeye salmon-producing system in Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, personal use salmon fisheries are essential to the people of the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, salmon sport fisheries are essential to the Kenai Peninsula economy; and

WHEREAS, subsistence salmon fisheries are essential for all Kenai Peninsula communities; and

WHEREAS, all users of salmon are dependent on an abundance of salmon; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, more than 1,300 drift and set gillnet limited entry fishing permits have been issued for the Upper Cook Inlet area, contributing about 10% of salmon permits issued statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fish Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Regulatory Meetings provide critical resources which include: a forum for research presentations and staff reports, a platform for public testimony, opportunities to create and/or update industry regulations, deliberations from committee members to increase rates of salmon returns and outline management plans; and

WHEREAS, Joint Resolution No. 2024-002, supports the efforts of the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District's Request that the 2026 and 2027 Cook Inlet Finfish meetings be held in Soldotna, Alaska, to provide resource stakeholders with the opportunity to be present at public discussions affecting the management of their resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Soldotna City Council formally requests that the 2026-2027 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Regulatory Meetings be held in Soldotna, Alaska, to provide an opportunity for local stakeholders to attend and provide public testimony regarding the management of the salmon system:

Section 2. That the Soldotna City Council authorizes the Mayor of the City of Soldotna to sign Joint Resolution 2024-002 on behalf of the Soldotna City Council.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 28TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

ATTEST:


Johni Blankenship, MMC, City Clerk


Paul J. Whitley, Mayor

Yes: Carey, Chilson, Hutchings, Nelson, Parker, Wackler
No: None