

Introduced by: Dunne, Johnson, Mayor, Cox,
Hibbert, Chesley, Elam, Carpenter,
Derkevorkian
Date: 03/02/21
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 1 Abstained

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2021-018**

**A RESOLUTION ASKING THE US SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO CONSIDER
VETOING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S
ADOPTION OF MEASURES THAT WILL CLOSE COMMERCIAL SALMON
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, at its December 7, 2020 meeting, selected Alternative 4 amending the Fishery Management Plan for the salmon fisheries that occur in waters of Cook Inlet; and
- WHEREAS,** Alternate 4 will close the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to all commercial salmon fishing; 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, and 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,** the local borough government has expressed interest in maintaining a healthy economy and jobs would be reduced if the Council's adoption of Alternative 4 were enacted; and

WHEREAS, if Alternative 4 is enacted, it will eliminate jobs in the commercial fishing and processing sectors, 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 US Secretary of Commerce to consider vetoing the North Pacific Management Council adoption of Alternate 4.

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


SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be submitted to Alaska Congressional Delegation, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan and Representative Don Young.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY MARCH, 2021.



Brent Hibbert, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Jonni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Carpenter, Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Dunne, Elam, Johnson, Hibbert
No: None
Absent: None
Abstained: Bjorkman