1 CITY OF HOMER 2 HOMER, ALASKA 3 Lewis 4 **RESOLUTION 15-042** 5 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, 6 SUPPORTING SALMON HABITAT BUFFERS ON LAKES AND 7 8 STREAMS IN THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH. 9 WHEREAS, Wild Alaskan salmon define who we are as Alaskans; salmon provide 10 countless jobs in our community, they support our local and state economies, they shape our 11 12 culture and they feed our families; and 13 WHEREAS, Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Policy states "salmon habitats should not be 14 perturbed beyond natural boundaries of variation; ... all essential salmon habitat in marine, 15 estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems and access of salmon to these habitats should be 16 protected; ... [and] salmon habitat in fresh water should be protected on a watershed basis;" 17 and 18 19 WHEREAS, Article 8 of the Alaska Constitution defines our water and salmon resources 20 as public resources belonging to all Alaskans, to be managed for the maximum benefit of 21 current and future generations; and 22 23 WHEREAS, The importance of salmon habitat protection has been apparent for many 24 years on the Kenai Peninsula; in 1996 the Kenai Borough put forward riparian protections 25 around the Kenai River, in 2000 it expanded those safeguards to larger salmon streams, and 26 in 2011 it approved protections for all waterbodies where wild salmon spawn and rear in the 27 Kenai Borough; and 28 29 WHEREAS, Habitat protection buffers around streams and lakes are well-known by 30 scientists, managers and developers alike to provide important safeguards for wild salmon, 31 especially during the early stages of their lifecycles, and such safeguards have been shown to 32 also increase property values and reduce property damage caused by flooding; and 33 34 WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's jurisdiction extends only to the 35 mean high water mark of lakes and streams, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough's habitat 36 buffers provide vitally important protections for the banks of such waterbodies. 37 38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, does 39 hereby support 50 ft. habitat protection buffers on the lakes and streams supporting wild 40 41 Alaska salmon in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

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Page 2 of 2 RESOLUTION 15-042 CITY OF HOMER

43	PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council on this 15th day of June, 2015.
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49	MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR
50	ATTEST:
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