

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Mayor's Office

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President
Members, KPB Assembly

FROM: Peter A. Micciche, Mayor *PAM*

DATE: December 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolution 2026- 003 , Requesting the Governor of the State of Alaska to Designate by Proclamation the Area of the Upper Cook Inlet East Side Set Net Fishery as an Area Impacted by an Economic Disaster in 2025 and Supporting a Recovery Plan (Mayor)

The Upper Cook Inlet East Side Set Net (ESSN) Fishery is an important Alaskan fishery that continues to face unprecedented challenges largely due to closures of the fishery. For seven of the last eight years, the ESSN Fishery has found itself in a fishery disaster status. Again, in 2025, the ESSN Fishery experienced a disastrous season. ESSN set netters were permitted to fish two, significantly restricted, 8-hour openings in August. The harvest for those two openings was low and well below the historical levels. An effort by set netters to harvest sockeye with dipnets also fell far short of the historical harvest of the fleet.

To put a face to “the fishery”, these are our friends, neighbors and community members, not folks from somewhere else. The Upper Cook Inlet ESSN is a unique Alaska fishery, in that 86% of the participants are Alaskan residents, 80% of which are Kenai Peninsula Borough residents. The economic impacts to our constituents and communities have been real and severe.

The resolution supports a request to Governor Dunleavy to designate the Upper Cook Inlet ESSN Fishery as an area impacted by economic disaster and to implement a recovery plan for the benefit of all that rely on this important fishery. The resolution also supports a request from the State of Alaska to the U.S. Department of Commerce and other federal agencies to provide private and public assistance to all affected entities and persons.

The information on page 2 of this memo reflects the ex-vessel values for the ESSN fishery since 2007. The 2025 ex-vessel value for the ESSN Fishery was \$1,672,326.90 which was 82% below the historical average of \$9,063,869.40. Current NOAA policy states that if a fishery suffers an 80% loss, then a disaster has occurred.

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RE: Resolution 2026-003

**Upper Sub-District of the Central District, commonly referred to as “Eastside Setnet Area”
Value of Eastside Setnet Fishery 2007-2025**

2007 \$9,073,953.05

2008 \$8,200,460.57

2009 \$6,046,863.00

2010 \$12,070,977.05

2011 \$18,674,343.80

2012 Omitted pursuant to disaster declaration and subsequent compensation

2013 \$ 11,667,952.20

2014 \$7,248,183.50

2015 \$11,743,823.18

2016 \$9,052,722.99

2017 \$9,420,732.84

2018 Omitted pursuant to disaster declaration and subsequent compensation

2019 \$7,853,884.45

2020 Omitted pursuant to disaster declaration and subsequent compensation

2021 Omitted pursuant to disaster declaration and subsequent compensation

2022 Omitted pursuant to disaster declaration and subsequent compensation

2023 Omitted pursuant to disaster declaration and subsequent compensation

2024 Omitted pursuant to disaster declaration and subsequent compensation

2025 \$1,672,326.90

2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 average ex-vessel value is \$9,063,869.40. (Previous 5 normal years without disaster declarations)

2025 ex-vessel value is \$1,672,326.90 which, when divided into 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 ex-vessel value constitutes an 82% loss to the Eastside Setnet Fishery.

2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 were not used in the determination due to already declared disasters. Current NOAA policy states that if a fishery suffers a 70% loss, then a disaster has occurred.

The breakdown per gear type for the Eastside Setnet Fishery is below per the Alaska Department of Fish and Game:

Dip net salmon harvest	\$1,251,440.87
Set net salmon harvest	\$420,886.03
Total Harvest	\$1,672,326.90

Your consideration is appreciated.