



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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**MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dale Bagley, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Mike Navarre, Mayor *MN*

DATE: February 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution 2015-*011*, A Resolution Requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Reduce Halibut and Salmon Bycatch Limits for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fisheries

North Pacific halibut and Chinook salmon stocks have steadily declined over the past two decades, despite significant reductions in the directed fisheries. Examples include a 70 percent reduction in the directed fishery for Gulf of Alaska halibut and 50 percent reduction in the daily halibut catch available to charter clients. By contrast, bycatch limits for trawl fisheries operating in these areas have not been significantly reduced, with minimal deviation over the past 30 years. We want to make sure that the Governor's office makes bycatch and trawl observer coverage a forefront issue in his upcoming North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) nominations. Additionally, bycatch of Chinook salmon stocks contribute to already difficult State of Alaska fisheries management decisions in Alaska waters, including restrictions on commercial and sports fisheries and the associated economic impacts to communities and user groups dependent on these resources.

The nominations of Alaskans to serve on the NPFMC should be contingent upon their mission of substantive bycatch reductions across Alaska's fisheries, a prioritization of directed fisheries in allocations of total allowable catch, and a cohesive, team-oriented Alaska delegation that is fully "bought in" to the administration's Alaska-First goals. Salmon and halibut are essential to the subsistence, sport, and commercial fishing residents of our community. We are part of a wide network of coastal communities dependent on these resources for our sustenance, recreation, and livelihood.