

Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Office of the Borough Mayor

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Wayne Ogle, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** Charlie Pierce, Mayor *cp*

**DATE:** November 8, 2018

**RE:** Resolution 2018-052 Declaring a Local Economic Disaster and Requesting that the Governor of the State of Alaska Declare an Economic Disaster for the Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries Region and Supporting a Recovery Plan (Mayor)

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The 2018 Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishing season had the lowest harvest of commercial salmon since 1971. The harvest was approximately 1.3 million fish which was 61 percent less than the recent ten-year average of 3.4 million fish. The harvest of sockeye salmon, the most valuable of the five species of Pacific salmon in Upper Cook Inlet, was approximately 70 percent less than the average annual harvest for the last ten years and the lowest Upper Cook Inlet sockeye harvest since 1975. This has caused a tremendous economic hardship in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

My office has received requests from United Cook Inlet Drift Association, the Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund, Copper River Seafoods, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, and the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District to ask the Governor of the State of Alaska to declare an economic disaster for the 2018 Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries. A state declaration would enable it to support a recovery plan that provides direct assistance to fisheries participants and take other actions to benefit all users of this important resource.

Your support would be appreciated.