

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Brent Johnson, Assembly Member BJ

DATE: February 4, 2020

RE: Resolution 2020-012, Asking the Alaska Board of Fisheries for Due Diligence in Supporting Biological Management of Salmon Stocks in Upper Cook Inlet (Johnson)

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will begin meeting February 7, 2020 in Anchorage to address Upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. These fisheries are essential for Copper River Seafoods of Kenai, Icicle Seafoods of Seward, Inlet Fish Producers of Kenai, Pacific Star Seafoods of Kenai, Snug Harbor Seafoods of Kenai and many smaller processors. These fisheries support numerous Kenai Peninsula guided sportfishing businesses, robust dipnet fisheries, educational fisheries, and traditional subsistence fisheries. These fisheries are also an important and traditional means for local salmon consumption.

Kenai Peninsula lakes, rivers and streams produce most of the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. Residents who live by anadromous water bodies help protect salmon by adhering to the Anadromous Habitat Protection District. Many Kenai Peninsula residents are dependent on salmon. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been delegated the responsibility of managing these salmon. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has been lobbied at recent meetings by entities who hire experts from outside of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The Kenai Peninsula Borough has never hired a lobbyist or expert to attend Board of Fisheries meetings. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has an excellent track record of managing salmon fisheries in Cook Inlet. Therefore, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly should encourage the Alaska Board of Fisheries to listen to Fish and Game biologists when adopting salmon escapement goals and allocating salmon resources.

Your support of this resolution will be appreciated.