

eComments
Resolution 2020-081

Catherine Cassidy

Location:

Submitted At: 6:06pm 11-30-20

Dear President Hibbert and Assembly Members,

My name is Catherine Cassidy. I live at 24760 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Kasilof. I am to ask you to support proposed Resolution 2020-081 "A Resolution Asking the North Pacific Fishery Management Council not to Adopt the Alternative 4, which would Prohibit Commercial Fishing in the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone" (Johnson).

I have been employed in the seafood industry here on the Kenai for over 30 years. I currently hold, and fish, a Cook Inlet drift fishing permit. Resolution 2020-081 is a very important communication to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The final "whereas" in the Resolution is:

"WHEREAS, if Alternative 4 is adopted it would eliminate jobs in the commercial fishing and processing sectors, and eliminate jobs in all the support industries and cause harm to all the coastal communities in the Kenai Peninsula Borough"

The 'Alternative 4' thrown on the table at the last minute would not only eliminate jobs. A number of seafood processors have already left Cook Inlet as the mis-management of the fishery by the ADFG has intentionally reduced commercial harvests in recent years. Losing the significant drift gillnet salmon catch from the EEZ will push the few remaining companies out of Cook Inlet. This would accomplish the state's goal of eliminating Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishing. It would also shut down all the other fisheries around Cook Inlet that rely on the seafood processing companies to process their catches. It would shut down peripheral businesses that depend on fisheries here. It would eliminate already-scarce sources of income for residents in our coastal communities. It would nullify many millions of dollars of capital investments in our communities.

In 2020 there are 1,062 Cook Inlet salmon permits owned by residents in the coastal communities of Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seldovia, Halibut Cove, Kachemak Selo, Razdolna, Voznesenka, Fritz Creek, Homer, Anchor Point, Nikolaevsk, Ninilchik, Clam Gulch, Kasilof, Soldotna, Sterling, Kenai, Nikiski and Tyonek. A conservative estimate of the average capital investment in these fishing businesses would be \$150,000. All together their value is around \$160 million. That's just salmon and just permit holders; no processing facilities, tenders, suppliers or support businesses.

This is huge. If you have time, I recommend that you go to the site where NPFMC collected comments to their proposed actions to read what your constituents had to say: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1745> [Scroll down agenda to item C2.]

Thank you, Catherine