

Resolution 01-2015
Bristol Bay Borough Chamber of Commerce
Resolution in Support of the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan

WHEREAS, Alaska's maritime sector employs a workforce of over 70,000 skilled workers, making the maritime sector the largest private employer in Alaska with a significant amount of that workforce operational in the Bristol Bay Salmon and Togiak herring fishery; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery supported 12,000 fishing and processing jobs during the summer salmon fishing season. Measuring these as year-round jobs, and adding jobs created in other industries, the Bristol Bay salmon fishery created the equivalent of almost 10,000 year-round American jobs across the country, and brought Americans \$500 million in income. For every dollar of direct output value created in Bristol Bay fishing and processing, more than two additional dollars of output value are created in other industries, as payments from the Bristol Bay fishery ripple through the economy. These payments create almost three jobs for every direct job in Bristol Bay fishing and processing; and

WHEREAS, this fishing, seafood, maritime and industry support workforce requires a high degree of technical and professional skill; and

WHEREAS, Alaska maritime employers are contending with a 'graying' workforce, and seek to expand the number of Alaskans throughout the state who have the employability and technical skills, expertise and motivation to be competitive in the job market; and

WHEREAS, an Industry Advisory Committee is now in place to work with the State of Alaska and with the University of Alaska system to implement the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development plan; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan is a call to action for industry, educators and local, regional and state governments to work together to keep this economic sector vibrant, to grow the number of Alaskans comprising this workforce and to ensure Alaskans are qualified to fill the skilled and well-paid Alaska fishery, seafood, maritime and industry support positions; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan seeks to address issues of workforce recruitment, retention, training in job readiness and core competencies and ongoing professional development in emerging and high demand occupational categories; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan will be implemented most effectively through an industry-led process that involves the joint efforts of industry, the Alaska Departments of Labor and Workforce Development and Education and Early Development, the University of Alaska system, regional training centers (SAVEC) and

other education providers, community development quota (CDQ) organizations, tribal and local governments, the K-12 educational system and other training providers; and

WHEREAS, the SW Alaska Vocational and Education Center (SAVEC), in the Bristol Bay area has developed the 'Bristol Bay Careers: Jobs in the Fisheries, Seafood Processing and Maritime Trades' guide to entice Bristol Bay residents and others into careers in the fishing, seafood, maritime, and industry support sectors; and

WHEREAS, workforce development and sustainability of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery has been identified by the Bristol Bay Borough Chamber of Commerce as a priority for Bristol Bay residents.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bristol Bay Borough Chamber of Commerce supports the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan and the cooperative efforts of the Industry Advisory Committee and other stakeholders to implement the strategies contained in the plan.

CERTIFICATION: The Bristol Bay Borough Chamber of Commerce held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed and convened this 15th day of January, 2015 and the foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this 15th day of January 2015.


Rebecca Hamon, Chairman

ATTEST:


Nancy Morris Lyons, Treasurer