



**BOARD RESOLUTION 2014-02**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY FISHING ASSOCIATIONS FOR SOUTHWEST ALASKA FISHING COMMUNITIES IN THE GULF OF ALASKA BYCATCH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, healthy fisheries are the backbone of the economies and cultures for Southwest Alaska coastal communities, including fishermen, processors, support businesses and community residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), is currently considering a bycatch management program for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish trawl fisheries which includes a catch share or rationalization program; and

**WHEREAS**, catch share programs, if improperly designed, result in significant harm to coastal communities through fleet consolidation, unnecessary loss of crew jobs, high quota lease rates, reduced crew compensation, reduced revenues for support business and municipal infrastructure and loss of access to fisheries resources for local fishermen and processors; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Fishing Associations on both the East and West Coasts of the US have successfully mitigated some of the adverse impacts that catch share programs can have on coastal communities.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the SWAMC Board of Directors requests the NPFMC include an option for Community Fishing Associations to be analyzed for possible inclusion as a component of the Gulf of Alaska trawl bycatch management/catch share program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SWAMC Board of Directors requests the NPFMC ensure that the Gulf of Alaska trawl bycatch management/catch share program includes adequate community protections to sustain fisheries access and maximize, to the extent practicable, economic benefits for Southwest Alaska communities.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors this 8th Day of March, 2014.**

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Alice Ruby, SWAMC President

Erik OBrien, SWAMC Interim Director