

**COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME**

**RESOLUTION 2013-01**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT REDUCE THE CHINOOK SALMON BYCATCH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA TRAWL FISHERIES**

**WHEREAS**, Chinook salmon is the official fish of Alaska and a cultural icon for both native and nonnative Alaskans; and

**WHEREAS**, Chinook salmon is a significant source of food in both the subsistence and recreational fisheries and a key component of the State's commercial and charter fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2012, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster exists for three regions of the Alaska Chinook salmon fishery, including Cook Inlet; and

**WHEREAS**, economic losses to the State of Alaska for commercial and recreational fisheries alone was over \$34 million, which does not include the significant impacts to subsistence users; and

**WHEREAS**, closures in the 2012 Cook Inlet set net fishery caused by low Chinook salmon returns resulted in a sockeye harvest with an ex-vessel value that was about 10 percent of the recent five-year average; and

**WHEREAS**, the sport fish harvest of late-run Kenai River Chinook was 103 fish, which was 99 percent below the recent five-year average; and

**WHEREAS**, these same Chinook salmon are caught and discarded in the Pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska and other trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, by-catch by the trawl fleets can be regulated to protect the mortality of this extremely valuable resource; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chinook by-catch cap in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is set at 25,000 Chinook salmon, which exceeds the ten-year average by-catch in the fishery; and

**WHEREAS**, the non-pollock Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries currently operate under no by-catch limit; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering a cap on the non-pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and is initiating a catch share program for Central Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries which should reduce by-catch further;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC):**

**SECTION 1.** That the CLAC urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to adopt and implement management measures that reduce the Chinook salmon by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries by setting new limits.

**SECTION 2.** That the CLAC urges NPFMC to lower the existing Chinook by-catch limits in the GOA and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to 5,000 Chinook salmon.

**SECTION 3.** That the CLAC urges the NPFMC to further reduce Chinook by-catch in any catch share program.

**SECTION 4.** That the CLAC urges NPFMC to require 100 Percent observer coverage in all trawl fisheries in the GOA to provide accurate estimates of by catch.

**SECTION 5.** That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to all members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

**SECTION 6.** That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADF&G THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.**

**ATTEST:**

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**George Heim, Chairman, Cooper Landing Advisory Committee**