

Introduced by: Haggerty, Johnson, Mayor
Date: 02/05/13
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2013-013**

**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 setnet 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,** bycatch by the trawl fleets can be regulated to protect the mortality of this extremely valuable resource; and
- WHEREAS,** the Chinook bycatch cap in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is set at 25,000 Chinook salmon, which exceeds the ten-year average bycatch in the fishery; and
- WHEREAS,** the non-pollock Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries currently operate under no bycatch 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 bycatch further;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

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

SECTION 2. That the KPB Assembly urges NPFMC to lower the existing Chinook bycatch limits in the GOA and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to at least half the current limits.

SECTION 3. That the KPB Assembly urges the NPFMC to further reduce Chinook bycatch in any catch share program.

SECTION 4. That the KPB Assembly urges NPFMC to require 100 percent observer coverage in all trawl fisheries in the GOA to provide accurate estimates of bycatch.

SECTION 5. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Parnell and all legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough and all members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

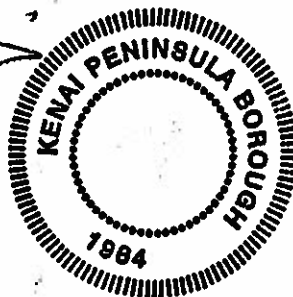
SECTION 6. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.


Linda Murphy, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Pierce, Smith, Tauriainen, Wolf, Murphy
No: None
Absent: Smalley