

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2702

A Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Urging the State of Alaska Legislature to Pass HB 128 Allowing for Shellfish Fishery Enhancement

RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS**, enhancement of the State's shellfish fisheries will benefit the state's economy by providing a method to increase the available harvest of shellfish for public use in an environmentally safe manner; and
- B. WHEREAS**, in January, 2017, Representative Dan Ortiz introduced House Bill 128, an act relating to management of enhanced stocks of shellfish and authorizing certain nonprofit organizations to engage in shellfish enhancement projects; and
- C. WHEREAS**, HB 128 authorizes the Commissioner of Fish and Game to issue permits to nonprofit organizations for shellfish enhancement projects and outlines criteria for issuance of permits. These requirements include determination of substantial public benefit while also ensuring safety and security of existing natural; and
- D. WHEREAS**, HB 128 creates a regulatory framework similar to that of salmon fishery enhancement and allows interested stakeholders to either pursue enhancement and/or restoration projects of species such as sea cucumber, abalone, geoduck, King crab, or razor clams with the end goal to augment the yield and harvest of shellfish species, rehabilitate shellfish stocks, or to increase the area of natural shellfish habitat; and
- E. WHEREAS**, under HB 128, shellfish released into the wild by a permit holder are a common property resource available for common use and subject to the same rules as shellfish occurring in the natural state except when a designated harvest area is authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game; and
- F. WHEREAS**, HB 128 will allow for collaboration between existing shellfish hatcheries, such as OceansAlaska or Alutiiq Pride, and industry-based non-profit organizations towards implementation of shellfish fishery enhancement projects; and
- G. WHEREAS**, shellfish enhancement projects stand to diversify and expand opportunities in local fisheries and increases the resiliency of Alaska's shellfish fisheries; and
- H. WHEREAS**, HB 128 is essentially identical to legislation introduced by Governor

Walker in 2016; and,

- I. WHEREAS**, the Assembly finds that HB 128 would provide necessary shellfish fishery enhancements in the best interests of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

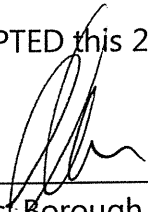
NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH as follows:

Section 1. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough urges the Alaska Legislature to pass HB 128 during the 2017 session.

Section 2. The Borough Clerk is directed to submit a copy of this resolution to Representative Dan Ortiz, Representative Louise Stutes, and the Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation.

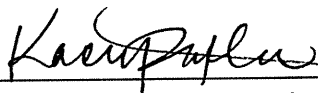
Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.




David Landis, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott A. Brandt-Erichsen, Borough Attorney