

Introduced by:	Dunne
Date:	09/20/16
Action:	Adopted as Amended
Vote:	8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2016-052**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES PURSUE AN  
UPDATE OF FISH HABITAT PERMITTING STATUTES**

- WHEREAS,** Alaska boasts 3,000 rivers, 3 million lakes and 6,640 miles of coastline and stands alone as the last state in the United States with robust salmon runs and habitat; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska's fishing industries remain a reliable economic engine for countless Alaskan families and communities driving billions of dollars in economic activity and revenue for the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska's fisheries support tens of thousands of Alaskan families, communities, and businesses as fishing guides, tourism operators, commercial fishers, seafood processors, and a variety of marine trade industries; and
- WHEREAS,** commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries are major economic drivers in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and
- WHEREAS,** Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution defines our water and salmon resources as public resources belonging to all Alaskans to be managed by the state for the maximum benefit of current and future generations; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska issues several thousand permits annually to develop projects in fish habitat; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska's Title 16 contains the Alaska statutes that guide how the State of Alaska permits development in important salmon habitats; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska's fish habitat permitting law, currently in AS 16.05.871, has not been updated since statehood and lacks specificity about how Alaska Department of Fish and Game should determine whether habitat permit applications should be approved or denied; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Policy in 5 AAC 39.222 states that to maintain sustained yield in Alaska fisheries, "salmon habitats should not be perturbed beyond natural boundaries of variation; . . . all essential salmon habitat in marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems and access of salmon to these habitats

should be protected; ... [and] salmon habitat in fresh water should be protected on a watershed basis ..."; and

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Resource Development Council states "The vast fishery resources of Alaska are of tremendous importance to the economies of the state and the nation. These resources are self-renewing if properly managed, and it is the mission of both state and federal fishery management agencies to sustainably manage and maximize the economic benefits from these resources for generations to come"; and

**WHEREAS,** at their October 18, 2016 work session in Soldotna, the Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider recommending that the Legislature implement the habitat provisions from the Board of Fishes Sustainable Salmon Policy in Title 16; and

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Board of Fisheries has a statutory duty to conserve and develop fish and game resources and assure that their use continues to be available on a sustained yield basis; and

**WHEREAS,** a reliable and certain fish habitat permitting process is highly important to protecting the salmon stocks of Alaska in general, and the Kenai Peninsula;

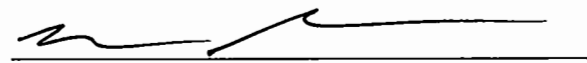
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Assembly supports the Alaska Board of Fisheries using its authority to recommend to the Alaska Legislature that Title 16 be updated to incorporate principles and criteria from Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Policy that refer to habitat protection.


**SECTION 2.** That copies of this resolution shall be provided to all members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

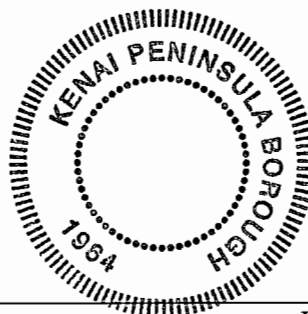
**SECTION 3.** That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.**

  
Blaine Gilman, Assembly President

ATTEST:

  
John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bagley, Cooper, Dunne, Holmdahl, Johnson, Knopp, Ogle, Gilman

No: None

Absent: Welles