

RESOLUTION 2025-03-03

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SEAFOOD TASK FORCE IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, Alaska's seafood industry, encompassing commercial and subsistence fishing, mariculture, and seafood processing, is integral to the state's economy, food security, and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the industry is currently facing significant headwinds, including increasingly predatory international competition, unpredictable variations in historical resource abundance, shifting market demands, workforce shortages, infrastructure deficiencies, and regulatory complexities, necessitating focused and coordinated legislative action; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature established a Legislative Seafood Task Force in 2024 to address these pressing issues and develop strategic recommendations for the sustainability and economic viability of Alaska's seafood sector; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has proposed actionable recommendations, such as enhancing international marketing efforts, developing new seafood products, expanding mariculture with streamlined permitting and financing, and providing direct support to fishing-propelled communities through housing subsidies and workforce training programs; and

WHEREAS, the successful implementation of these recommendations requires a collaborative approach involving policymakers, industry stakeholders, scientists, and community representatives to ensure data-driven decision-making and innovation in sustainable fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislative support for the Task Force's initiatives will demonstrate a commitment to protecting and strengthening one of Alaska's most vital legacy industries while fostering long-term economic growth and environmental stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Alaska State Legislature to fully implement the Legislative Seafood Task Force's recommendations to address the critical challenges facing the seafood industry and fishing communities in Alaska; and

- m o r e -

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the implementation process includes active participation from representatives of the Alaska State Legislature, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, seafood industry organizations, coastal municipalities, and research institutions to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to policy development; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Alaska, the President of the Alaska State Senate, the Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives, the Commissioners of relevant state agencies, and other key stakeholders to advocate for the immediate enactment of the Legislative Seafood Task Force's recommendations in Alaska.

Adopted by the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference on this seventh day of March 2025.

Signed

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



Mayor Alice Ruby, President
Board of Directors
Bristol Bay Municipal Seat
City of Dillingham

Attest:



Wanetta Ayers, Executive Director
Office: (907) 562-7380
Mobile: (907) 230-2284
director@swamc.org