

# **UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS**

**Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 \* (253) 279-0707 \* usag.alaska@gmail.com \* akgillnet.org**

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

February 13, 2023

House Fisheries Committee  
Chair Representative Sarah Vance  
Juneau Capitol Building, Rm 120  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Madam Chair and committee members,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters would like to offer our support of House Joint Resolution 5. The Southeast Alaska Troll fishery is vitally important to the economy of the region, and the state, providing high quality protein to salmon connoisseurs around the world. Over 80% of the participants of this fishery are residents of the region. This fleet has attracted young fishermen, eager to make their way in the industry. Should this lawsuit succeed, their investments and ability to service debt will be severely compromised. Their boats help fill our harbors, keep children in our schools, and support local businesses from Ketchikan to Haines, and everywhere in between. Many in our gillnet fleet are also in the troll fleet, and depend on both fisheries to make their business plan work.

In our estimation this lawsuit is frivolous and will not achieve anything other than squashing a livelihood that has existed for over a hundred years. The precedent set by the success of this lawsuit will likely lead to other extraterritorial jurisdictional lawsuits that could impact nearly every fishery in the state.

We view this lawsuit as yet another misinformed attack on Alaska's Fisheries, and urge you to swiftly move this resolution. We appreciate this resolution being brought forth, and also the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Max Worhatch, Executive Director, USAG

Cc: Representative Dan Ortiz

Representative Rebecca Himschoot



# Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

1008 Fish Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

Email: [kathy@seafa.org](mailto:kathy@seafa.org)

Cell Phone: 907-465-7666

Fax: 907-917-5470

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>

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March 12, 2023

Alaska State Legislature

Senate Resources

Juneau, AK 99811

RE: SUPPORT HJR 5 – ALASKA FISHERIES -TROLL FISHERY

Dear Senator Click Bishop, Co-Chair; Senator Cathy Giessel and Resource committee members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) supports HJR #5, a resolution urging the US Secretary of Commerce, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and Alaska Dept of Fish and Game and other federal state federal and state agencies to defend the states' fisheries, including the Southeast Alaska troll fishery.

The Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit to provide Chinook salmon to the Southern Resident Killer Whale pod is mis-directed. The Alaska fishery only harvests two to three percent of the Puget Sound chinook salmon and Columbia River fall stocks. Habitat loss, industrial activities, road run off and other fisheries in Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

While this lawsuit has the Alaska Troll fishery under attack, it has the potential to also affect other southeast fisheries (sport, gillnet & seine) depending on how the outcomes occur.

SEAFA hopes the State Legislature stands behind the Governor's comments to defend this lawsuit at all costs and provides the funding necessary for the legal expenses to defend against this lawsuit. If this lawsuit is not vigorously defended, it can be expected that many of our other fisheries will face similar lawsuits.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen  
Executive Director



# Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

1008 Fish Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

Email: [kathy@seafa.org](mailto:kathy@seafa.org)

Cell Phone: 907-465-7666

Fax: 907-917-5470

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>

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February 13, 2023

House Fisheries Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: SUPPORT HJR 5

Dear Representative Vance and House Fisheries Committee Members

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) supports HJR #5 resolution urging the US Secretary of Commerce, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and Alaska Dept of Fish and Game and other federal state federal and state agencies to defend the states' fisheries, including the Southeast Alaska troll fishery.

The Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit to provide Chinook salmon to the Southern Resident Killer Whale pod is mis-directed. The Alaska fishery only harvests two to three percent of the Puget Sound chinook salmon and Columbia River fall stocks. Habitat loss, industrial activities, road run off and other fisheries in Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

SEAFA would recommend that the resolution add one other Be it Resolved clause to commit to providing the funding necessary for the state to defend this fishery all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen  
Executive Director



Rep. Sarah Vance  
State Capitol Room 118  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Rep. Rebecca Himschoot  
State Capitol Room 409  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Rep. Dan Ortiz  
State Capitol Room 500  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Rep. Sara Hannan  
State Capitol Room 400  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

February 14, 2023

**Re: Comments regarding HJR 5**

Dear Representatives, Himschoot, Hannan, Vance and Ortiz:

Please accept these comments from SalmonState in support of House Joint Resolution 5:

*A RESOLUTION Urging the United States Secretary of Commerce, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other federal and state agencies to defend the state's fisheries, including the Southeast Alaska troll fishery.*

At issue is a lawsuit filed by Seattle based non-profit the Wild Fish Conservancy, alleging impacts of Southeast Alaska's commercial hook and line commercial Chinook fishery on the health and survival of Southern Resident Orca; a population whose numbers have dwindled and whose future is in jeopardy. While the situation is deeply disturbing, the simple fact is, Alaska's troll fishery is not a material factor in the decline of the Orca in and around Puget Sound.

In our experience Southeast Alaska's fishing families are some of the most committed and invested stewards of wild salmon and marine ecosystems, Southeast's trollers have a long record of advocating for wild salmon and their habitat in both Southeast Alaska (e.g., the Tongass National Forest, Transboundary Mines) and the Pacific Northwest (e.g., the Snake River in the Columbia Basin).

The troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska and the largest fleet in Southeast Alaska, with 85% of troll permit holders residing in Southeast Alaska. Approximately 1,450 fishermen earn income directly from the fishery, including skippers (permit holders) and crew. The troll fishery provides more jobs for Alaskan residents than any other fishery and is especially important to those who live in smaller, remote communities; roughly one of every 50 people in Southeast Alaska works on a trolling boat.

Trolling is essentially a year-round salmon fishery, providing fishermen with year-round revenue and high-quality fresh fish to markets during months when fresh salmon is not typically available. The troll fishery, along with other salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska, is sustainably managed under strict annual limits negotiated through the Pacific Salmon Treaty. In-season harvest is carefully managed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, who has a long history of sustainable salmon management.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Commercial King Salmon Troll Closure  
**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2023 8:20:48 PM

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Rebecca,

I am writing this email since I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow and provide public testimony. Interestingly enough, I will be working at a remote salmon hatchery tomorrow. Anyways, please use this email for public record, testimony, comment, or however it can be of use.

I am not well versed in the ins and outs of the lawsuit ruling from Washington; however, I understand some of the effects could include a prohibition of king salmon retention in a majority of troll areas for commercial trollers. This has dire economic impacts for obvious reasons. Of the 5 species, king salmon are by far the most profitable - fetching prices over twice the amount (or more) of the next most valued salmon species. No other commercial fisheries provide a higher quality product than trollers, which means many of these troll caught kings end up in fancy restaurants and market places. Often times, trollers sell directly to community members that don't have access to the resources to catch king salmon. I believe that a majority of the trollers in the affected regions would exit the fisheries causing devastating economic impacts and job losses.

Every salmon sold is subject to a Salmon Enhancement Tax which is used to fund fish hatcheries. These fish hatcheries supplement natural fish stocks by producing salmon numbers that exceed the natural production of the watershed in which they are located. These salmon support the natural ecosystem from bears on land to killer whales in the ocean and everything in between. All the local communities - including native communities - rely on the salmon produced by hatcheries to fill freezers to provide sustenance through the winter. The charter and tourism industries also rely directly on salmon from hatcheries. These uses as well as commercial fishing operations are the most obvious uses that are built upon hatchery salmon. If the Salmon Enhancement Tax is indirectly affected by this ruling, which it undoubtedly will be, the hatcheries would not be able to function as they currently are and would most likely stop the production of king salmon all together. This has catastrophic impacts that need to be analyzed before implementing the ruling.

From what I understand, the lawsuit was based upon a theory to enhance food for Southern Resident Killer Whales. Before this ruling is implemented, there needs to be peer reviewed studies on the genetic differences between these killer whales and others around the Pacific Northwest. Are the Southern Resident Killer Whales genetically distinct enough to be considered a separate species or subspecies? Is this a similar tactic that environmentalists use for many other species - tactics that we are well accustomed to such as the Alexander Archipelago

wolf subspecies? I have concerns that are specific to the areas I fish. If my suspicions are correct, and the hatcheries stop producing king salmon, what will the salmon eating Killer Whale pods in Southeast Alaska do? Many of these pods have been conditioned to rely heavily on the terminal harvest areas where hatcheries are located - one such scenario is the king run at the Whitman Lake Hatchery. It is fascinating to me that a group would be willing to jeopardize an animal species in one area to supposedly enhance that same species in different area.

Thank you for your time,

Joel Teune



Ketchikan, AK 99901

**Ed Wood Email re HJR 05**

From: Ed Wood <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:41 AM  
To: Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: House Fisheries Comm hearing on troll lawsuit

Rep Himschoot,

I am one of your constituents in Petersburg. I began my trolling career in the mid-60's at the age of 12. I became a full time power troller in 1977 after military service, and have been semi retired since 2017. I am now 70. I still have a few halibut IFQ shares and I hand troll for king salmon during the July opening.

Trollers have lived through numerous fish wars with other gear groups, sectors, and regions through most of the half century (almost) that I actively participated as a troll fisherman. In my view, nothing that we have experienced before compares to the lawsuit by the WFC for potential disruption and outright danger of survival to any Southeast Chinook harvester, not just trollers.

I greatly appreciate your and your colleagues on the Committee yesterday supporting the passage of HJR 5.

Thank you,  
Charles E. Wood  
[REDACTED]  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
[REDACTED]

**Bill Tremblay Email Re HJR 05**

**From:** Bill Tremblay <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:19 AM  
**To:** Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SE Alaska Trollong Issue

Dear Rep. Himschoot,

The issue of troll fishing in SE Alaska and the impacts to the Pacific Northwest are not new. I believe it was in the late '90's, when I was on the Petersburg City Council, we had the Bonneville Power Authority propose shutting down the SE troll fisheries instead of breaching three dams along the Snake River in Idaho to increase habitat for salmon (specifically for king salmon). To their credit, they held a number of

public hearings across SE Alaska communities and decided to start measures to remove the dams. I did give testimony at these hearings against stopping all troll fishing in SE Alaska.

I Googled Snake River Dam Breach and found a July 2022 article from Oregon State still advocating for the breaching of these same three dams. It seems to me that the troll fisheries in SE Alaska is a political pawn being used as an excuse for not taking actions to improve critical habitat for salmon.

I haven't seen any of the discussions regarding the breaching of these dams for improving habitat brought up in this current dispute. Seems to me that they're willing to tank our economy instead of taking the logical actions to do what's right for the needed improvements for their resources.

I would hope someone could bring this issue to the attention of the Judge looking at this case.

Bill Tremblay

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK. 99833

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Presented by: Triem  
Presented: 02/27/2023  
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

## RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

### Serial No. 3023(b)

#### **A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Opposing the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit and Protecting the Southeast Alaska Troll Fishery from Closure.**

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska's economy, the largest private sector employer in the state, and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska, and trollers derive an estimated 44% of their income from the Chinook catch; and

WHEREAS, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to the Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 581 fishing and seafood processing jobs in Juneau that represent approximately \$27.4 million in wages, which includes commercial salmon trollers and processors that depend on Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, the troll fleet, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, has a total annual economic impact of approximately \$85 million across Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit, *Wild Fish Conservancy v. Rumsey et al.*, in the Western District of Washington State Federal Court (No. C20-417-RAJ-MLP) challenges the National Marine Fisheries Service fishery management plan and seeks the closure of the Southeast troll fishery—except from May 1 through June 30—in an effort to provide more Chinook salmon to the endangered Southern Resident killer whales located in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, many communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the pending litigation results in the closure of the Southeast troll fishery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

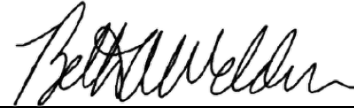
**Section 1.** The City and Borough of Juneau urges the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support continuation of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries.

**Section 2.** The City and Borough of Juneau supports the NMFS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's commitment to defend Southeast Alaska's hatchery system and troll fishery.

**Section 3.** The City and Borough of Juneau urges all state and local governmental bodies to work with Alaska's congressional delegation to protect Southeast Alaska's economic, cultural, and social livelihood related to Chinook salmon while also protecting the Southern Resident killer whale population.

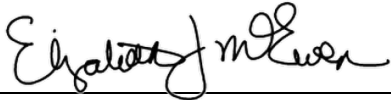
**Section 4.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

**CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-2874**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA OPPOSING THE WILD FISH CONSERVANCY LAWSUIT AND PROTECTING THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON TROLL FISHERY FROM CLOSURE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Ketchikan City Council and community of Ketchikan recognize that commercial fishing has long provided an economic backbone for Alaska and is the largest private sector employer in the state providing year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

**WHEREAS**, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the salmon troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the Southeast region annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

**WHEREAS**, the troll fishing fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska with 44% of the fishing income to trollers derived from Chinook salmon catches; and

**WHEREAS**, recognize the importance of the hatchery systems throughout Southeast Alaska including the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) in their efforts to enhance and rehabilitate salmon production in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, a pending lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy in the Federal District Court in Washington state (Docket No. C20-417-RAJ, WAWD) challenges the National Marine Fisheries Service fishery management plan and seeks the closure of the Southeast troll fishery in a claimed effort to provide measurable ecological relief to the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales located off the Washington and Oregon coasts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wild Fish Conservancy has pledged to work to eliminate mixed stock fisheries and to eliminate hatcheries throughout Southeast Alaska, and the pending litigation has the potential to impact other Southeast fisheries through impacts on the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and the Section 7 troll take permit; and

**WHEREAS**, the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship and threatens subsistence use of Chinook fisheries if the pending litigation results in the wholesale closure of the Southeast troll fishery.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska as follows:

**Section 1:** The City of Ketchikan urges the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to commit all necessary resources to defend its troll fishery management efforts in Alaska and to strenuously oppose any effort toward a wholesale closure of the Southeast Alaska winter and summer troll fisheries.

**Section 2:** The City of Ketchikan supports the (NMFS) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) commitment to provide necessary resources to defend Southeast Alaska's hatchery system and troll fisheries.

**Section 3:** The City of Ketchikan urges all state and local governmental bodies to work with Alaska's congressional delegation to protect fisheries from lawsuits that threaten the region's economic, cultural, and social livelihood.

**Section 4:** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council for the City of Ketchikan on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.



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Dave Kiffer, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Kim Stanker, City Clerk

# City of Tenakee Springs

## RESOLUTION 2023-12

In the Council  
February 23, 2023

Introduced by the  
Councilman Rudy Ziel

### A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF TENAKEE SPRINGS, ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL FISHERY

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Tenakee's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

WHEREAS, the southeast Alaska troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska and the largest fleet in southeast Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to the economy of Tenakee Springs; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) discriminates against the southeast Alaska troll fishery, which is one small section of the pacific salmon fishery, indicating a bias and no real attempt to help the Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

WHEREAS, the community of Tenakee Springs will suffer severe economic hardship if the southeast troll fishery is closed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of Tenakee Springs urges in the strongest possible terms that:

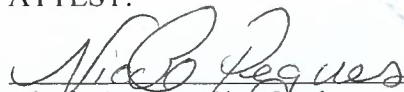
1. NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and
2. NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular all the way to the highest court in the land; and
3. All necessary and available state, federal or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors; and
4. The state of Alaska work with Alaska's congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits

**ADOPTED** 5 ayes, 2 absent **THIS** 23<sup>rd</sup> **DAY OF** February **2023**



Dan Kennedy  
City Council President  
Ex officio MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Nicole Pegues, City Clerk

CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 23-392

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT, ALASKA ASSEMBLY  
SUPPORTING THE ALASKA TROLL FISHERY**

**WHEREAS**, Commercial fishing is a mainstay of the Yakutat economy and the largest private sector employer in the state, and

**WHEREAS**, Yakutat \$15.9 Million in commercial fish landing ind 2021 made it the 68th highest ranking port in the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, Yakutat residents hold 74 hand and power troll permits, and

**WHEREAS**, Commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to the Yakutat's economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing and support sector industries, and

**WHEREAS**, 44% of the fishing income to trollers is derived from their Chinook catch, and

**WHEREAS**, Approximately 15% of Alaska's winter troll Chinook catch occurs in or near Yakutat, and

**WHEREAS**, Including fishing, processing and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact in Yakutat of approximately \$1.3 million annually, and

**WHEREAS**, The Wild Fish Conservancy has pledged to eliminate mixed stock fisheries and eliminate hatcheries, and

**WHEREAS**, The community of Yakutat will suffer severe hardship if the Alaska Troll Fishery is closed, now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Assembly of the City and Borough of Yakutat urges in the strongest possible terms that:

- 1) The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prioritize preparation of the necessary documents to support preservation of the winter and summer troll fisheries, and
- 2) NMFS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and particularly the troll fishery, and
- 3) All Necessary and available state, federal, and private resources be made available to support lawsuit defenders and intervenors, and
- 4) The State of Alaska works with the Alaska Congressional Delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT THIS 2nd DAY  
OF February, 2023.**

ATTEST:

  
TINA RYMAN, CLERK



  
CINDY BREMNER, MAYOR

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION No. 02-23-1756

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE ALASKA TROLLERS ASSOCIATION AGAINST A LAWSUIT TO STOP THE CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

WHEREAS, Commercial fishing is a mainstay of Wrangell's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

WHEREAS, the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Wrangell's economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

WHEREAS, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of \$85 million for the whole of Southeast annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

WHEREAS the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

WHEREAS the community of Wrangell will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed; and

NOW WHEREAS BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WRANGELL BOROUGH ASSEMBLY URGES IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT:

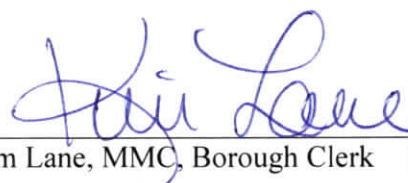
Section 1. NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and process to support prosecution of the Southern Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and

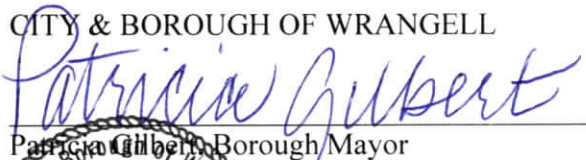
Section 2. NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and

Section 3. All necessary and available state, federal, or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and interveners; and

Section 4. The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional Delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.

ATTEST:   
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL  
  
Patricia Gubert, Borough Mayor



# SEACC takes a stance on Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit



Written by SEACC



[Blog](#) | [Featured](#)



0 Comments(s)



March 6, 2023

SEACC's staff and board have been reading up on the Wild Fish Conservancy's lawsuit seeking to end the Southeast Troll fishery over the last week, and after carefully examining the situation we've come to a unanimous conclusion. Our mission has always been to protect the special places of Southeast Alaska, including its wildlife. Our origins are deeply intertwined with Alaskan's desire to protect healthy salmon runs and we have dedicated decades to safeguarding wild fish habitat and to supporting strong and healthy fish populations and the communities that depend on them.

We value and advocate for many species that make up Southeast Alaska's marine ecosystem, from tiny herring all the way to giant humpbacks. So it's not lightly that we oppose the [Wild Fish Conservancy's lawsuit](#) concerning the Southern Resident Orca pod. We agree that wild salmon, orcas, and a great deal else in the ocean are in urgent need of protection. But we object in the strongest possible terms to this lawsuit.

The Wild Fish Conservancy's case rests on an implausible and misguided premise, that King Salmon harvests here in Southeast Alaska are the main driver of the decline of the Southern Resident Orca pod.

The flaws in this argument are too numerous to list completely here, but they include that Southern Resident Orca populations have declined and risen with little to no relationship to Alaskan King Salmon populations or harvests, that Southeast Alaska trollers catch very few King Salmon headed to Puget Sound or the Salish Sea compared to more local harvests, and, most egregiously, that it ignores the massive environmental degradation happening in Seattle-based Wild Fish Conservancy's own backyard – the actual habitat of the Southern Resident Pod – in favor of fighting a far off technicality. Our friends at [Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association](#) have created the [most comprehensive resource to understand the issue](#), and we encourage you to read directly from ALFA if you want to learn more.

Throughout our organization's history, SEACC has worked to protect wild fish habitat, and we know that not only is the Southeast troll fishery sustainably managed, but that its fishermen are some of the most informed and effective advocates for wild fish conservation and habitat restoration.

We stand with them in advocating for sustainable management of the Southeast troll fishery. We join our voice to the many others calling for the National Marine Fisheries Service to hold the Southeast troll fleet harmless and find a way to continue the 2023 troll season as planned. And we urge the Wild Fish Conservancy to reconsider their misguided litigation.

From,

The SEACC Board and Staff

[← Prev: Position Paper on HB49/SB48](#)

[Next: Questionable Carbon Credits — March '23 Climate Newsletter →](#)



The SE troll fishery is consistently in the top 3 most valuable fisheries in Southeast Alaska, the troll fleet has a total economic impact in Southeast Alaska of approximately \$85 million annually, as measured in terms of total output and about Approximately 44% of that total is derived from Chinook harvest.

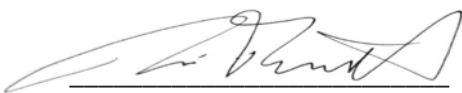
Maintaining access to this fishery is critical for the well-being and continued diversification in Southeast Alaska's economy. The troll fishery is a lifeline for rural livelihoods across this region where hundreds of small-boat fishermen take great pride in the high-quality food product they provide to consumers across America.

Over the past few decades Southeast Alaska's trollers have limited their harvest to aid in maintaining sustainable populations of Northwest Chinook. However, the data clearly shows limiting the Alaska troll harvest is not enough to restore those salmon runs. Rather, chronic habitat problems in Washington [State of Washington's State of the Salmon](#) and nearby Southern British Columbia are the root cause of the sharp decline in the Southern Resident Orca's primary food source, Chinook salmon. Shutting down troll operations and putting Alaska fishing families on the beach will solve nothing.

In fact, in 2001, I worked as the Alaska Field Representative for the Seattle based Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. The goal was to build a critical mass of social and political support for what the science was telling us, that one of the most impactful initiatives needed to rebuild depleted Washington Chinook Salmon runs was the partial removal of four dams on the Lower Snake River in Eastern Washington. Many Alaskan communities passed resolutions and hundreds of thousands of Washington residents weighed in supporting decommissioning these four dams. But here we are, more than two decades later and those Chinook killing dams are still standing and the Wild Fish Conservancy has decided to try and place the blame far to the north in an attempt to distract the public from the tough and politically difficult choices that need to be made much closer to their Seattle area homes.

While SalmonState supports the goals of the Endangered Species Act, we condemn the Wild Fish Conservancy's lawsuit which is little more than a massive distraction that diverts attention from the core challenges facing salmon and divides groups that should be working together for the future of wild salmon all along the Pacific Coast of North America. Thank you for introducing this resolution and thank you for the opportunity to register our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Bristol', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Bristol  
Executive Director  
SalmonState  
Homer, Alaska



# City of Pelican

BOX 737 - PELICAN, ALASKA 99832 - PHONE: 735-2202/2203 - FAX: 735-2258 - EMAIL: [cityhall@pelican.net](mailto:cityhall@pelican.net) - WEBSITE: [www.pelican.net](http://www.pelican.net)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## CITY OF PELICAN

### RESOLUTION NO. 2023-3

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PELICAN SUPPORTING THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL FISHERY AND ASKING FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION AGAINST THE WILD FISH CONSERVANCY LAWSUIT**

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Pelican's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Alaska troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska and the largest fleet in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, 44% of the fishing income to trollers is derived from Chinook catch; and

**WHEREAS**, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the whole of Southeast annually, as measured in terms of total output; and,

**WHEREAS**, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Pelican's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Shared Fisheries Business Tax contributions to the City of Pelican have been steadily increasing to over \$36,000 for the last fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast fisheries through effects on the Pacific Salmon Treaty, a new Biological opinion and the Section 7 take permit; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Pelican will suffer severe significant adverse economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Pelican urges in the strongest possible terms that:

1. NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and
2. NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular all the way to the highest court in the land; and
3. All necessary and available state, federal or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors; and
4. The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS**   16th   **DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.**

*Patricia Phillips*

Signed:  
Patricia Phillips, Mayor

*Lattieca Stewart*

Attest:  
Lattieca Stewart, City Clerk





City of Hoonah | P.O. Box 360 | 300 Front Street | Hoonah, AK 99829  
Phone: (907) 945-3663 Fax: (907) 945-3445

**RESOLUTION No. 23-02-02**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL FISHERY AND URGING THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE AND THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME TO COMMIT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO DEFEND ALASKA'S FISHERIES**

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Hoonah's economy and the largest private sector employer in the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Alaska troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska with 44% of fishing income to trollers being derived from their Chinook catch; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Hoonah's economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Hoonah will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council for the City of Hoonah strongly urges that:

1. NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and
2. NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish & Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and
3. All necessary and available state, federal or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors; and

  
Mayor Gerald Byers



SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.

  
City Clerk Jennifer Bidiman

ATTEST



## **“Resolution on the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit”**

**WHEREAS** commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska’s economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

**WHEREAS** the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska with 44% of the fishing income to trollers being derived from their Chinook catch; and

**WHEREAS** commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

**WHEREAS** including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the whole of Southeast annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

**WHEREAS** the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and,

**WHEREAS** the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast Fisheries; and

**WHEREAS** the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

**WHEREAS** Southeast Conference recognizes the importance of subsistence use of the Chinook fisheries for all Alaskans; and

**WHEREAS** the cultural, traditional and ongoing importance of marine uses of the indigenous people of Alaska; and

**Therefore, be it resolved that** Southeast Conference urges in the strongest possible terms that:

NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support defense of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and,

NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and

All necessary and available state, federal and private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors through all possible appeals; and

**Therefore, be it further resolved, that:**

Southeast Conference encourages the State of Alaska to work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

**Adopted by the Southeast Conference on February 1, 2023.**

Witness by:



Lacey Simpson  
President

Attest:



Robert Venables  
Executive Director

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION #2023-02**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL FISHERY AND  
URGING THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE AND THE ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME TO COMMIT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO  
DEFEND ALASKA'S FISHERIES**

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Petersburg's economy and the largest private sector employer in the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Alaska troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska with 44% of fishing income to trollers being derived from their Chinook catch; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 22% of the Southeast Alaska troll fleet permits are homeported in Petersburg; and

**WHEREAS**, 133 unique troll permits reported Petersburg as port of landing in the 2021 troll fish ticket records; and

**WHEREAS**, 14% of the total 2021 winter chinook troll fishery catch was landed in Petersburg; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Petersburg's economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

**WHEREAS**, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact in Petersburg of approximately \$4.25 million annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

**WHEREAS**, the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Petersburg will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly for the Petersburg Borough strongly urges that:

1. NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and
2. NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish & Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and
3. All necessary and available state, federal or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors; and

4. The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

**PASSED AND APPROVED by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on February 6, 2023..**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jensen, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk





Armstrong-Keta, Inc.  
PO Box 1075, Sitka, AK, 99835  
Phone: (907)586-3443  
Email: aki@ak.net

### **AKI Resolution on the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit**

Whereas Armstrong-Keta, Inc.'s mission is to enhance and support the commercial and sport fishing fleets, the rural communities, and the fishing-related businesses of southeast Alaska with research into salmon enhancement and the production of additional salmon; and

Whereas commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

Whereas the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska; and

Whereas 44% of the fishing income to trollers is derived from their Chinook catch; and

Whereas commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

Whereas including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the whole of Southeast annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

Whereas the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy has pledged to eliminate mixed stock fisheries and eliminate hatcheries; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast Fisheries thru effects on the Pacific Salmon Treaty, a new Biological opinion and the Section 7 take permit; and

Whereas the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

Therefore, be it resolved Armstrong-Keta, Inc. urges in the strongest possible terms that:

NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and

NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and

All necessary and available state, federal and private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors through all possible appeals; and

The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

Bryanna Torgeson  
General Manager AKI

Approved: February 8, 2023



SSRAA  
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.  
14 Borch Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
P: 907.225.9605 F: 907.225.1348

### **SSRAA Resolution on the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit**

Whereas the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association's mission is to enhance and rehabilitate salmon production in southern Southeast Alaska to the optimum social and economic benefit of salmon users; and

Whereas commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

Whereas the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska; and

Whereas 44% of the fishing income to trollers is derived from their Chinook catch; and

Whereas commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

Whereas including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the whole of Southeast annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

Whereas the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and,

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy has pledged to eliminate mixed stock fisheries and eliminate hatcheries; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast Fisheries through effects on the Pacific Salmon Treaty, a new Biological opinion and the Section 7 take permit.

Whereas the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association urges in the strongest possible terms that:

NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and,

NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and

All necessary and available state, federal and private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors through all possible appeals; and

The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

  
Susan Doherty General Manager SSRAA

Approved: January 7, 2023

## **Killer Whale Lawsuit Against SE Trollers**

Whereas commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

Whereas the troll fleet is the second largest commercial fleet in Alaska; and

Whereas between 2000-2018, the troll fleet landed on average 3.02 million pounds of Chinook salmon each year at an average value of \$11.7 million; and

Whereas between 2000-2018, Chinook accounted for 44% of the troll fleet's annual ex-vessel earnings on average and in 2015 made up 58% of the fleet's income; and

Whereas approximately 1,450 fishermen/women earn income directly from the troll fishery, including skippers (permit holders) and crew, with total direct, indirect and induced labor income estimated at \$28.5 million; and

Whereas, in 2018, the residents of the Prince of Wales Island-Hyder Census Area (Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Hydaburg, Metlakatla, Kake and other communities) landed 17% of the Alaska resident troll Chinook harvest and 15% of the total troll Chinook harvest value; and

Whereas in 2021, Craig ranked 30th in the nation for commercial seafood landings (21 million pounds) and 52nd in value (\$22.7 million), out of 137 of the nation's top fishing ports; and

Whereas commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to the Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing processing and support sector industries; and

Whereas including fishing, processing and all retailer multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the whole of Southeast annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

Whereas the lawsuit files by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Alaska winter and summer troll fisheries despite those closures providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy has pledged to eliminate mixed stock fisheries and eliminate hatcheries; and

Whereas the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the troll fishery is closed; then

Therefore, be it resolved that the ADFG Klawock Advisory Committee urge in the strongest possible terms that:

NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the troll fishery in particular; and

All necessary and available state, federal or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors; and

The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Department of Law and the Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

ADFG Klawock Advisory Committee

CITY OF PORT ALEXANDER  
PO BOX 8068  
PORT ALEXANDER, ALASKA 99836  
907-568-2211  
cityofportalexander@yahoo.com

**RESOLUTION 23-02**  
**A Resolution to support the Southeast Alaska Troll Fisheries**

Whereas Southeast Alaska salmon trolling has historically been one of the main sources of Port Alexander's economic existence;

Whereas the community of Port Alexander will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast Alaska troll fishery is closed;

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC), a Seattle-based organization, has singled out the Southeast Alaska troll fishery in a lawsuit against National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) threatening to close the Southeast Alaska troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefit to the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW);

Whereas the WFC lawsuit challenges NMFS's Biological Opinion regarding Southeast Alaska troll fishery and the impact of Washington's Chinook and Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW);

Whereas the Magistrate for the US Western Washington District Court recommendations in this lawsuit contradicts NMFS conclusion that the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) that allows Southeast Alaska's troll fishery to harvest Chinook year-round would not appreciably reduce the likelihood of both survival and recovery of the SRKW or destroy or adversely modify their designated critical habitat;

Whereas science tells us that cutting harvest is not going to be enough to restore Washington local Chinook populations and will do nothing to help SRKW;

Whereas SRKW are threatened by urbanization, toxic water pollutants and noise disturbance in their critical habitat and

Whereas fish managers recognize that continued disturbance and degradation

of habitat, not fisheries, are the primary problem limiting the viability of the Puget Sound Chinook; and, therefore be it

Resolved: That the City of Port Alexander urges the Magistrate take a hard look at the facts that Alaska Trollers Association has provided;

In the strongest possible terms consider the devastating economic impacts shutting down the Southeast Alaska troll fishery would have on many small Southeast Alaska communities; and, therefore be it further

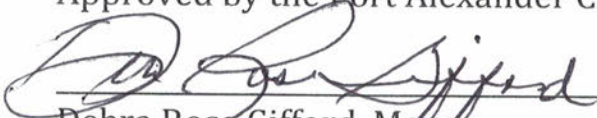
Resolved: That the City of Port Alexander urges the NMFS to prioritize preparations of the necessary documents and processes to support the continuation of the Southeast Alaska troll fishery;


That NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast Alaska troll fishery in particular;

That the State of Alaska and Federal resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors through all possible appeals and

The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

Approved by the Port Alexander City Council on January 25, 2023

  
Debra Rose Gifford, Mayor

  
Shanna Smith, City Clerk

**Become a Member Today!**  
<https://www.seiners.net/membership/>

**Southeast Alaska Seiners  
Association  
PO Box 6238  
Ketchikan, AK 99901**



January 31, 2023

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dan Sullivan  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Mary Peltola  
153 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Representative Peltola,

The Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is writing to voice our support of the Southeast Alaska troll fleet in their efforts to counter the lawsuit brought by the Wild Fish Conservancy (a conservation organization based in Washington State) against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

This lawsuit specifically attacks Alaska's management of its Chinook salmon fisheries under the Pacific Salmon Treaty and could result in the closure of the winter and summer Southeast Alaska commercial troll fishery.

The lawsuit argues that Alaska fisheries threaten the survival of several ESA-listed Chinook salmon stocks in Washington and Oregon, and thus, the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales that depend on Chinook salmon for food. Judge Jones supported their claims. This

lawsuit does not attack similar fisheries that occur off the coasts of Washington and Oregon despite similar impacts.

Wild Fish Conservancy's statements also make no mention of challenges currently faced by Chinook salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales on the West Coast. These challenges range from warming and acidification of ocean waters, chemical pollution, acoustic and physical disturbance from vessels and other noise sources, and dams blocking salmon's return to natal streams to spawn.

SEAS is asking our Washington D.C. delegation and State officials to strongly advise NMFS to quickly implement a Temporary Incidental Take Statement that allows the Alaska troll fishery to remain open while this lawsuit progresses through the legal system. This will allow trollers to fish until NMFS can produce a revised Biological Opinion.

SEAS believes in the continued harvest of salmon which has been responsibly and sustainably managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) since 1959.

Sincerely,

Phil Doherty – Executive Director SEAS

Cc: Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy

ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang

ADF&G Extended Jurisdiction Manager Dani Evenson

Alaska Trollers Association Amy Daugherty, Executive Director



**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUPPORTING THE  
SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL FISHERY**

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Sitka's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Alaska troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska and the largest fleet in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 30% of the troll fleet is based in Sitka; and

**WHEREAS**, 60% of the winter chinook troll fishery catch and approximately 40% of the total Southeast troll catch is landed in Sitka; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Sitka's economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

**WHEREAS**, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact in Sitka of approximately \$34 million annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

**WHEREAS**, the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Sitka will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka urges in the strongest possible terms that:

1. NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and
2. NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular all the way to the highest court in the land; and
3. All necessary and available state, federal or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors; and
4. The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 24th day of January, 2023.

  
Kevin Mosher, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading: 1/24/2023

Sponsors: Christianson / Ystad



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

**Phone:** (907) 586-2820

**E-mail:** [ufa@ufa-fish.org](mailto:ufa@ufa-fish.org) **Website:** [www.ufa-fish.org](http://www.ufa-fish.org)

## **UFA Resolution on the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit**

Whereas the United Fishermen of Alaska's mission is to promote and protect the common interest of Alaska's commercial fishing industry, as a vital component of Alaska's social and economic well-being; and

Whereas commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

Whereas the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska; and

Whereas 44% of the fishing income to trollers is derived from their Chinook harvest; and

Whereas commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

Whereas including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the Southeast economy annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

Whereas the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Southeast winter and summer troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and,

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy has pledged to eliminate mixed stock fisheries and eliminate hatcheries; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast Fisheries thru effects on the Pacific Salmon Treaty, a new Biological opinion and the Section 7 take permit; and

Whereas the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

Therefore, be it resolved that the United Fishermen of Alaska urges in the strongest possible terms that:

NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and,

NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and

All necessary and available state, federal and private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors through all possible appeals; and

The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

Matt Alward  
President, United Fishermen of Alaska

Approved: January 12, 2023