

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-09

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA URGING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT REDUCE THE HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERIES

WHEREAS, halibut bycatch (prohibited species catch or PSC) limits in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries have not been significantly changed since 1989; and

WHEREAS, currently there is a halibut bycatch limit of 2,300 metric tons (mt) in the GOA—or just over 5 million pounds; and

WHEREAS, a maximum reduction in the halibut PSC limit of 15 percent is being considered by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for final action in June 2012 ; and

WHEREAS, exploitable biomass—the portion of the halibut population that is available for harvest—has declined by 58 percent over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, every pound of halibut caught as bycatch results in a direct loss of yield and spawning biomass of the halibut resource; and

WHEREAS, cuts in catch limits have and will continue to have dramatic effects on our fisheries, businesses, economies and communities that depend on the halibut resource; and

WHEREAS, halibut play a key role in the economy of the City and Borough of Sitka;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska as follows:

SECTION 1. That the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take meaningful final action now by reducing Gulf of Alaska halibut bycatch by at least 15 percent.

SECTION 2. That copies of this Resolution be provided to Governor Sean Parnell and all members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 22nd day of May, 2012.


Cheryl Westover, Mayor

ATTEST:


Serena Wild
Assistant Clerk