

MEMO TO: Jim Dinley, Municipal Administrator DATE: March 4, 2013
 Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Marlene Campbell, *me* Government Relations Director
 Stan Eliason, Harbormaster
SUBJECT: Chinook Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grant Applications

The CBS Harbor Department has been urged to apply for the Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grants whose purpose is to help mitigate economic impacts to Southeast Alaska fisheries interests from the reduction in the Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon harvest under the revised Pacific Salmon Treaty. These reimbursable grants require no matching funds other than evidence that the infrastructure will be sustainable. Grant administrative costs must not exceed 10%.

An eligible grant area is infrastructure projects that provide a lasting benefit to the sport Chinook salmon fishery under the criteria 'fish waste disposal' (\$250,000 maximum). This grant would permit CBS Harbors to purchase a 32 foot power barge designed as a stable work platform to transport and offload fish waste using a knuckle boom and carcass bags, rather than having to contract this out for four months each summer at a cost of around \$42,000. This fish waste disposal problem came about several years ago when Alaska Department of Fish and Game ruled "marine boat anglers returning to Southeast ports are prohibited from filleting, mutilating, and de-heading sport caught lingcod, rockfish, and king and coho salmon until the fish are brought to shore." This fish waste was formerly dumped into the ocean at the City's fish cleaning stations, but this attracted marine mammals and birds that became a major safety concern in Sitka harbor and at Sitka's airport, requiring agencies to prohibit further discharges near town.

The barge and trailer would also be used for many other jobs the Department must now contract out since the two Harbor skiffs are much smaller and not capable of handling large loads, open seas, derelict boats, emergency tasks, and heavy docks. This is the highest priority project of the Harbor Department and would help Harbors to save funds and respond far more effectively to Harbor operations and emergencies.

It is conceivable that a second Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grant could also be received for a lower priority request for an ice machine (under the criteria "ice-making and storage infrastructure projects providing service to the coastal areas of Baranof Island"—\$250,000 maximum). The ice machine at the Harbors would permit sports fishers to purchase ice for sport fish use. The grant would cover purchase/installation of the ice machine. Income from ice sales could cover long-term costs. As a major "salmon capital city", Sitka and visitors would benefit from this public service to sports fishers to maintain quality and safety of their catch with bulk ice that is not now available. This may be the only opportunity for CBS to receive these large infrastructure grants, so staff plan to apply for both grants, with the fish waste disposal grant the number one priority project and the ice machine project secondary.

Staff request the Assembly approve Resolutions 2013-05 and 2013-06 to permit CBS to apply for these Chinook Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grants.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
RESOLUTION NO. 2013-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA, ALASKA, APPROVING
SUBMITTAL AND EXECUTION OF A SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON
MITIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FOR UP TO \$250,000 FOR FISH WASTE
DISPOSAL

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is providing one-time targeted grant funding through the Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grants; and

WHEREAS, City and Borough of Sitka is eligible to apply for this funding to enable the Sitka Harbor System to more efficiently and cost effectively dispose of fish waste generated by sport fishers who are required by Alaska Department of Fish and Game to bring their salmon carcasses to the Sitka Harbor System, but the carcasses can no longer be dumped in the water at the fish cleaning floats due to serious marine mammal and bird attraction safety problems adversely impacting Sitka Airport; and

WHEREAS, Sitka has the largest small-boat harbor system in Alaska, and the Harbor Department has hired a private contractor to handle the large sport angler fish waste disposal for several years, but the average four-month cost of \$42,000 is prohibitively expensive, and a permanent solution is needed and there are no other viable carcass disposal options available; and

WHEREAS, if this grant is received, the Sitka Harbor Department could purchase a greatly needed powered barge of sufficient size and carrying capacity to provide a stable platform to collect fish waste and safely relocate it to open water well beyond the Airport at a much lower cost and greater safety and efficiency than is currently possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that the City and Borough of Sitka supports this Chinook Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grant for fish waste disposal as its highest priority project request and agrees, subject to available Grant funding and selection by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), to enter into a grant agreement with the State of Alaska, DCCED, for this Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grant;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that the Municipal Administrator is authorized to apply for the grant and to execute the grant if received.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 12th day of March, 2013.

Mim McConnell, Mayor

Attested by _____
Colleen Ingman, MMC, Municipal Clerk