

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.

Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading: 1/24/2023

Sponsors: Christianson / Ystad