

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA, ALASKA SUPPORTING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND THE FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON THE US/CANADA SALMON COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the recreational, commercial and subsistence fisheries of Southeast Alaska are critically important to the economic and personal well-being of our citizens and our communities; and

WHEREAS, the management of Southeastern Alaskan Chinook, Pink, Coho, and Sockeye fisheries, and the allowable salmon harvest and corresponding economic benefit or loss to the region, is dependent upon fishing regimes conducted by agreement with Canada, the States of Washington and Oregon and the Pacific Northwest Tribes under the Annexes of the Pacific Salmon Treaty; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the current Treaty Annexes are being renegotiated for a ten year period beginning in 2019 and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Southeast Alaska recreational, commercial and subsistence fishery representatives serving on the Pacific Salmon Commission Panels are now working to develop the terms of the next ten year agreement in order to:

- Restore and continue commitments of financial support from the Federal Governments of the United States and Canada and the State of Alaska to the programs that support accurate and reliable data for management of the fisheries, assist with enhancement programs, and share the cost of managing the fisheries to meet the Treaty commitments.
- Resolve current deficiencies in the performance of the Pacific Salmon Commission Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) to eliminate the erratic and unreliable estimates of Chinook salmon abundance that cause difficulty setting bag limits and marketing the guided recreational fishery and undermines the ability of the processing sector to maximize the value of the commercial harvest.
- Secure greater access by Alaska fisheries to hatchery stocks produced by Federally-funded programs for the express purpose of mitigating lost harvest opportunities that were the result of diminished salmon populations that were the initial result of hydropower projects on the Columbia River.
- Work with the US Section of the Salmon Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Department of State to assure fair treatment of the Alaska fisheries within the Commission process to prevent abuses in the application of the Endangered Species Act and to recognize the dependence of the rural Alaska communities upon the fisheries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, requests that the Governor's office of the State of Alaska, the Alaska

State Legislature and the Alaska Congressional delegation recognize the critical need for support over the next three years for the Alaska representatives to the Pacific Salmon Commission and use all means available to provide assistance to help assure a successful outcome to the current negotiations in order to provide continued access to salmon stocks for our citizens after 2019.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 9th day of February, 2016.



Mim McConnell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, CMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 2/9/16