

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-02


**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
SUPPORTING THE SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA AND THE 2018 BOARD OF FISHERIES
DISCUSSION ON SUBSISTENCE HERRING EGG HARVEST IN SITKA SOUND**

- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the federally recognized tribal government for the Sitka area and is responsible for the health, safety, and culture for its more than 4,400 tribal citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** the City and Borough of Sitka and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska have entered in to a Memorandum of Understanding "to recognize areas of mutual concern and support, establish a framework for cooperative relations and promote government-to-government communications for the benefit of the community of Sitka as a whole"; and
- WHEREAS,** the effects of changing ocean conditions brought about by climate change and the significant increase in the humpback whale population on herring stocks are not fully understood nor adequately addressed in the management of the Sitka Sound herring stock; and
- WHEREAS,** the amount necessary for subsistence (5AAC 01.716 (b)) for the Sitka Sound subsistence herring egg harvest has not been met in five of the last seven years (2010-2016); and
- WHEREAS,** it is important to recognize the cultural and traditional ecological knowledge in the ongoing discussions and management of the Sitka Sound and all Southeast Alaska herring stocks; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska has submitted three Board of Fisheries proposals that are aimed at conserving the Sitka Sound herring stock and protecting a viable subsistence harvest of herring eggs in Sitka Sound; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's local Advisory Committee (AC) recognized the need for herring conservation and the concerns of subsistence harvesters; and
- WHEREAS,** the AC unanimously supported an amended version of Board of Fisheries Proposal 99 to change the Sitka Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) Rate, and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska finds this a reasonable compromise; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's 2018 Board of Fisheries proposal 106 would close waters adjacent to the core subsistence herring egg harvest area and contiguous with existing waters that are closed to commercial herring fishing for the purposes of establishing a herring conservation zone and protecting the subsistence herring egg harvest; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska opposes 2018 Board of Fisheries Proposals 94 and 104 that are aimed at rescinding existing regulations, which are in place to protect the subsistence harvest of herring eggs in Sitka Sound and to provide a reasonable opportunity for the amount necessary for subsistence to be met.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka hereby shares the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's concerns about conserving the Sitka Sound herring stock and protecting the subsistence harvest of herring eggs in Sitka Sound.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 9th day of January, 2018.



Matthew Hunter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, CMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 1/9/18