

## RESOLUTION 17-19

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION TO ADDRESS THE 2016 FISHERY DISASTER DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.**

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 pink salmon fishery collapse in the South Alaska Peninsula area was a huge blow to Aleutians East Borough fishermen, processors and communities that rely on that season, a season that resulted in just 12.24% of the previous *even year* 5-year average of local post-June pink salmon harvest and only 6.59 % of the previous 10 year average harvest including all years; and,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Bill Walker demonstrated his acute understanding of the severity of the poor pink salmon season by requesting the US Secretary of Commerce declare a disaster for the 2016 pink salmon season throughout the Gulf of Alaska, including the areas of Kodiak, Prince William Sound, Lower Cook Inlet, Chignik, South Peninsula, Yakutat and Southeast Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2017, US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker determined that nine US West Coast fisheries in 2016, including the Gulf of Alaska pink salmon season, meet the requirements of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster set out under MSA Section 312(a); and,

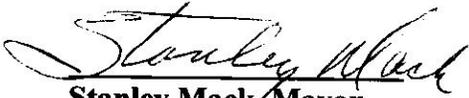
**WHEREAS**, Secretary Pritzker noted that the poor Gulf of Alaska pink salmon returns were 'due to a variety of factors outside the control of fishery managers to mitigate, including unfavorable ocean conditions, freshwater environmental factors, and disease.'; and

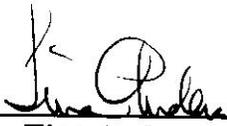
**WHEREAS**, Congressional appropriation will be required before any disaster relief can be administered and the National Marine Fisheries Service can provide assistance to affected communities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly urges Congress to appropriate sufficient funding for the purpose of accommodating 2016 fisheries disaster relief; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Aleutians East Borough stands ready to work with the State of Alaska, members of Congress, the National Marine Fisheries Service, local tribes and other organizations to help develop a spending plan and engage in supporting activities that would restore the fishery, prevent a similar failure, and create more resilient communities.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Aleutians East Borough on this 9th day of February, 2017.

  
**Stanley Mack, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**   
**Tina Anderson, Clerk**