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