



A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH REQUESTING NO FURTHER CUTS TO ADF&G, AND A PLAN FOR FULL STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE 2019 SUMMER COMMERCIAL SALMON SEASON NOT CONTINGENT ON A TIMELY STATE BUDGET PROCESS.

WHEREAS, the subsistence and commercial harvest of fish resources in the western Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands are vital the social, cultural and economic health of the residents of the Aleutians East Borough, and

WHEREAS, the summer salmon season along the Alaska Peninsula and the Shumagin and Aleutian Islands is critical for our fishermen, shore-based processors and communities, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska seafood industry is the 2nd largest contributor to Alaska's economy and the largest private-sector employer in the State, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Commercial Fisheries Division budget has been significantly reduced in recent years,

WHEREAS, the Alaska seafood industry pays millions of dollars in taxes each year, exceeding current State spending on commercial fisheries management, and

WHEREAS, cuts to the ADF&G budget negatively impact State commercial fishery research and management programs that are critical to commercial fishery harvest opportunities, and

WHEREAS, reduced harvest opportunities in any fishery in our region results in fewer jobs, less income and decreased tax revenue for the State of Alaska and our coastal communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Aleutians East Borough Assembly strongly requests Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska Legislature to not impose further cuts to the ADF&G budget and particularly to the Commercial Fisheries Division budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AEB Assembly urges the legislature to affirm a plan for the Alaska 2019 summer salmon season to be fully staffed and managed, even if the legislature runs into special legislative sessions in the 2019 summer without a budget in place.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 14th day of March 2019.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk