

## RESOLUTION 15-09

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY URGING SWIFT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO EXEMPT VESSELS LESS THAN 79 FEET AND ALL FISHING VESSELS FROM EPA PERMITS FOR DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE VESSEL.**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Vessel General Permit (sVGP) for owners and operators of non-military, non-recreational, commercial vessels less than 79 feet in length on December 19, 2014 when the current legislative moratorium is set to expire; and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of this permit requirement is unnecessary; privately owned pleasure boats are already permanently exempted from this onerous permitting requirement but Congress has thus far only granted a temporary exemption for commercial vessels; and

**WHEREAS**, permanently extending the moratorium on discharge permits for fishing, fish processing, and fish tender vessels regardless of size, and commercial vessels less than 79 feet in length will not significantly contribute to pollution of our inshore or coastal waters, nor contribute to decline of fish stocks; and

**WHEREAS**, there is bi-partisan support for an extension of the current moratorium on NPDES permits for fishing boats and smaller commercial vessel discharges, during normal operations such as deck washing; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 2094, the "Vessel Incidental Discharge Act" which contains a permanent exemption from NPDES discharge permits for all commercial fishing vessels regardless of size, and for commercial vessels less than 79 feet, was recently approved by the U. S. Senate Commerce Committee; and,

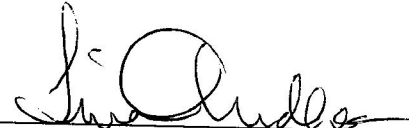
**WHEREAS**, H.R.4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, which permanently exempts vessels less than 79 feet in length or fishing vessels from EPA NPDES permits for any discharge incidental to the normal operation of the vessel, was passed by the U.S. House on April 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, time is growing short until the moratorium expires on December 19, 2014 and the threat of fines associated with the permit, up to \$25,000 per day, could devastate many of our small family-owned businesses.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Aleutians East Borough Assembly to urge Congress to act swiftly to permanently exempt vessels less than 79 feet and all fishing vessels from NPDES permits for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Aleutians East Borough on this 17th day of November, 2014.

  
Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Tina Anderson, Clerk