RESOLUTION 14-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY TO ENCOURAGE NMFS TO MAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTRONIC MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM READILY AVAILABLE TO AEB FISHERMEN

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) observer program struggles to provide adequate fisheries information for managers and can be an inefficient burden on fishermen; and,

WHEREAS, electronic monitoring (EM) can be useful as a viable alternative to human observers on board fishing vessels; and,

WHEREAS, an EM pilot program is available to fixed gear vessels under 60 feet in length targeting halibut & blackcod IFQ or groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, installation and removal of the EM equipment is currently only available at five Alaska ports: Kodiak, Homer, Petersburg, Seward or Sitka; and,

WHEREAS, small boat fishermen of the Aleutians East Borough would have a better opportunity to participate in the EM pilot program if equipment installation was available in or near the AEB; and,
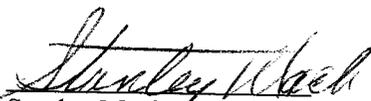
WHEREAS, increased participation by AEB fishermen in the EM Pilot Program will mean expanded coverage and greater success of the program.
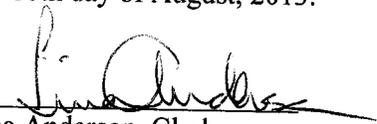
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AEB Assembly encourages NMFS to work to increase AEB fishermen participation in the EM pilot program, and to expedite EM as a viable alternative to observer coverage; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AEB Assembly supports the availability of the EM Pilot Program equipment installation in Sand Point, Alaska, giving a better opportunity to AEB fishermen to benefit the program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AEB Assembly directs the AEB Natural Resources Director work with NMFS observer program staff and Sand Point Harbor staff to facilitate the participation in the EM pilot program by eligible AEB fishermen.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 16th day of August, 2013.

Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST: Tina Anderson, Clerk