

RESOLUTION 17-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH SUPPORTING THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE OF THE NPFMC GULF OF ALASKA TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES.

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough (AEB) stated nine goals for Gulf of Alaska fishery management programs in the attached AEB Resolution 13-16, and

WHEREAS, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is considering alternatives for a Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management program (GOA TBM), and

WHEREAS, any new fishery management program put in place for Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) trawl fisheries will concern current and future trawl and other WGOA fishermen, and have an economic impact on the communities of the AEB, especially King Cove and Sand Point, and

WHEREAS, a recent report commissioned by the AEB (Social Impact Assessment of the Western Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management Plan, <http://aebfish.org/wgoatbmpsia.pdf>) in 2015 states the following finding among others: *All trawl vessels currently fishing in the communities need to stay fishing to maintain the current level of support for the community consistently throughout the year, and*

WHEREAS, the AEB and WGOA trawl fishermen have historically supported common sense solutions that could help reduce bycatch and increase the value of groundfish fisheries without implementing a GOA catch share plan, including changing the GOA Pacific cod A season opening date, adjusting Steller sea lion closures and changing WGOA cod apportionments from the late fall to early spring.

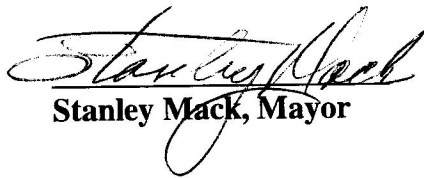
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AEB Assembly supports Alternative 1, or the no action alternative, as the preferred alternative for the NPFMC GOA TBM, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AEB Assembly suggests some common sense regulation changes to reduce bycatch and increase target species value, including the following:

- Make adaptations to Steller sea lion closure regulations
- Increase the apportionment of WGOA Pacific cod in the A season
- Change the A-season GOA Pacific cod opening date as appropriate
- Provide increased flexibility within the Chinook PSC cap

in order to achieve a positive outcome for Aleutians East communities and fishermen.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 8 day of December, 2016.


Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk