

## RESOLUTION 19-12

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH (AEB) SUPPORTING A PROPOSAL TO THE 2018 NOAA MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR A COMMUNITY-BASED DERELICT GEAR BUYBACK PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 NOAA Marine Debris Removal FFO supports the development and implementation of locally-driven, marine debris prevention, assessment, and removal projects with typical awards ranging from \$50,000-\$150,000 and full proposals due October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, our region includes some of the largest and most prominent fisheries in the world, which inevitably accumulates derelict gear over time; and

**WHEREAS**, derelict gear is a particularly concerning type of marine debris, as it has negative socioeconomic and environmental implications; and

**WHEREAS**, lost gear can “ghost fish,” by continuing to attract and catch species effectively removing the commercial value of any animals subject to mortality, reduce populations of high-value species, damage essential habitat and reduce gear efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, past efforts by the Aleutians East Borough, the Marine Conservation Alliance and APICDA to conduct beach clean-up efforts in our region have had limited success due to logistics and high accumulation rates, and do not address long-term needs; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to this issue, the Aleutians East Borough proposes partnering with local fishermen, fishing organizations and the NOAA Restoration Center to facilitate a community-based derelict gear buyback program; and

**WHEREAS**, the program will map and assess existing derelict gear, pay participating fishermen to retrieve derelict gear between fishing seasons at an agreed price-per-unit and subsidize operational costs, resell usable gear at reduced cost and retain proceeds in escrow for future removal or prevention efforts, and collect descriptive statistics to quantify the severity of the problem and to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for future efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Aleutians East Borough will request consideration under the Fishing for Energy program to receive no-cost collection bins for unusable gear, reducing marine related waste at landfills; and

**WHEREAS**, similar efforts in California have proven successful, collecting 666 crab pots with fishermen who were hired to retrieve the gear earning approximately \$41,675 total and depositing \$25,805 into escrow; and

**WHEREAS**, this project aligns with Aleutians East Borough priorities to expand economic diversity and protect our natural resources; and


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Aleutians East Borough Assembly supports submission of a 2018 NOAA Marine Debris Removal grant proposal through the AEB Natural Resources Department, upon approval by the Mayor.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Aleutians East Borough on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tina Anderson, Clerk