

RESOLUTION 20-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH URGING NMFS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ALLOW A WGOA PACIFIC COD FISHERY OCCUR IN 2020.

WHEREAS, fishermen and on-shore processors of the Aleutians East Borough are reliant on a wide array of fisheries, including Pacific cod, to maintain viable fishing and processing operations, and

WHEREAS, recent analyses of the Pacific cod stock in the Gulf of Alaska imply a significant stock decline leading to speculation that there will not be a 2020 GOA Pacific cod directed fishery, and

WHEREAS, the State South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod fishery in March 2019 and other recent federal Western Gulf of Alaska fisheries have revealed good fishing for cod, and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishermen have successfully demonstrated a collective ability to develop and maintain a voluntary catch share plan, and

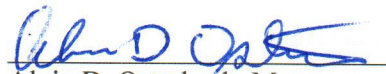
WHEREAS, a voluntary catch share plan by fishermen would allow fishery managers the opportunity to open a Pacific cod season with some certainty that fishermen would not exceed set limits, and


WHEREAS, fishermen and communities have suffered under recent low Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod TAC's, and the difference between a small cod fishery in 2020 and no fishery at all could mean the difference between the survival of our communities or those communities closing their doors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly requests the National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council take into account recent State cod fishery information and fishermen accounts of reported good cod fishing in the South Peninsula, as part of the final assessment of the Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod stock and setting of harvest specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly urges NMFS to open a Western Gulf of Alaska 2020 Pacific cod fishery upon assurances that the local fishermen will develop and maintain a voluntary catch share plan, or other alternative for the 2020 season.

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


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk