



RESOLUTION 20-56

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME ON DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE THE 2018 GULF OF ALASKA PACIFIC COD FISHERY DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.

WHEREAS, an 80% reduction in the 2018 Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod fishery total allowable catch from the previous year prompted a disaster declaration request by the State of Alaska to the Secretary of Commerce, who made a fishery disaster determination in September 2019, and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service and affected stakeholders to distribute \$24,416,440 for the disaster relief effort through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game is currently soliciting input from affected stakeholders on developing a distribution plan for the disaster relief funds, and

WHEREAS, Pacific cod harvested in the Gulf of Alaska are of high importance to fishermen, processors and communities of the Aleutians East Borough, and

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly understands that continued surveys and research that contribute to stock assessments are most critical to the sustainability of all Pacific cod stocks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly recommends that:

- 10 % of the 2018 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod disaster relief funds be dedicated to funding Pacific cod research, including for stock surveys and assessments
- 55 % of the 2018 GOA Pacific cod disaster relief funds should be direct payments to fishermen.
- 20 % of the 2018 GOA Pacific cod disaster relief funds should be direct payments to processors.
- 15 % of the 2018 GOA Pacific cod disaster relief funds should be direct payments to impacted communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly supports a simpler approach that would be better for disbursements to fishermen, using low, medium or high rankings, and using 2017 through 2019 as qualifying years.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 9th day of April, 2020.

Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tina Anderson, Clerk