

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH REQUESTING A FISHERY
DISASTER DETERMINATION FOR THE 2020 ALASKA PENINSULA
COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY.**

WHEREAS, salmon fisheries in the Aleutians East are the foundation of our communities, and

WHEREAS, the year 2020 began with the complete closure of the federal Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishery, also extremely important to our communities, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely stressed Borough seafood processors, fishermen and communities, and

WHEREAS, now the 2020 Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery in Area M has nearly collapsed, causing severe economic loss and leaving some fishery participants unable to cover basic costs, like insurance, and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery collapse is due to

- a 61% decrease in the number of salmon harvested in the 2020 fishery compared to the previous 5-year average
- a decrease in the average size and weight per salmon compared to previous years
- a sudden and dramatic reduction in sockeye salmon price 44% compared to last year and 28% reduction compared to the previous 5-year average of sockeye salmon ex-vessel price, and


WHEREAS, Aleutians East Borough staff conclude that Alaska Peninsula/Area M salmon fishermen have suffered losses on average of at least 50% of gross revenues from this fishery compared to the previous 5-year average, on top of other stressors this year, resulting in severe financial hardship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly requests the State of Alaska and the Secretary of Commerce determine that a fishery disaster has occurred in the 2020 Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery resulting in severe economic harm for the communities of King Cove, False Pass, Sand Point, Nelson Lagoon, Cold Bay, Akutan and the Aleutians East Borough, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly thanks the State of Alaska and the Department of Commerce for the COVID-19 related support this year that has helped individuals and Alaskan communities survive.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 8th day of October, 2020.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk

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