



RESOLUTION 23-10

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH REQUESTING A FISHERY
DISASTER DETERMINATION FOR THE 2022 NELSON LAGOON COMMERCIAL
SOCKEYE SALMON FISHERY.**

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

WHEREAS, the number of sockeye salmon harvested from Nelson Lagoon in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area in 2022 was 58,763 fish, a **63% decline** from the previous five-year average, and a **70% decline** compared to the previous 10-year average, and

WHEREAS, Nelson River escapement in 2022 is approximately half of the 10-year average, however preliminary final escapement did meet the minimum threshold at 98,000, and

WHEREAS, Nelson Lagoon salmon fishermen have reported a loss of fishing revenue from the 2022 fishery compared to all previous years, and

WHEREAS, many Nelson Lagoon fishermen are dependent on the local sockeye salmon fishery and the Nelson Lagoon Tribal Council has requested a disaster declaration for the fishery, and

WHEREAS, NOAA Fisheries administers fishery disaster assistance under two statutes: the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (MSA) sections 312(a) and 315, and, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, (IFA) sections 308(b) & 308(d), and

WHEREAS, under each statute, a state governor or an elected or duly appointed representative of an affected fishing community can request a fishery disaster determination from the Secretary of Commerce, and if the Secretary determines that a fishery disaster has occurred, the fishery is eligible for disaster assistance subject to appropriation of funds by Congress.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly requests the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Secretary of Commerce to make a fishery disaster determination for the 2022 Nelson Lagoon Sockeye salmon fishery in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 8th day of September, 2022.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Beverly Rosete, Clerk