



RESOLUTION 24-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING A FISHERY DISASTER DETERMINATION FOR THE 2023 NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA COMMERCIAL SOCKEYE SALMON FISHERY

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

WHEREAS, Concerned Area M Fishermen (CAMF), an organization representing over one hundred salmon drift net and set net permit holders in the Alaska Peninsula region, has requested the Borough's assistance in pursuing an economic disaster declaration for the 2023 North Alaska Peninsula salmon drift and set net fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the 2023 North Alaska Peninsula harvest of 1,152,719 sockeye salmon, is a 55% decrease from the previous 5-year and 10-year average harvests, and

WHEREAS, the average price paid for sockeye salmon in 2023 was 48% lower than the previous 10-year average price per pound and 53% lower than the most recent 5-year average price, and

WHEREAS, the disastrous total ex-vessel value for North Peninsula fishermen in 2023 was 77% below the previous 10-year average and 81% below the most recent 5-year average, 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 determine that a fishery disaster has occurred in the 2023 North Alaska Peninsula salmon drift and set net fisheries.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 11th day of January, 2024.

Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

Beverly Rosefe, Clerk