



**RESOLUTION 26-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH IN SUPPORT OF  
CONGRESSMAN BEGICH'S DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND  
THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1972.**

**WHEREAS**, Aleutians East Borough communities are fishing communities and rely on the North Pacific Ocean including the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea for subsistence and economic survival, and

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) combined have closed areas of traditional fishing grounds and limited groundfish fishery quotas for the protection of Steller Sea Lion (SSL), and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Distinct Population Segment of SSL while still listed as endangered, has been steadily increasing in the Eastern Aleutian Islands and Western Alaska Peninsula area, and

**WHEREAS**, the SSL population have overtaken some traditional salmon fishing grounds in the Aleutians East Borough, making some areas no longer feasible for salmon fishing, and

**WHEREAS**, NMFS is also currently considering expanding the Critical Habitat designation for another marine mammal, the North Pacific Right Whale, to include all Gulf of Alaska waters of the AEB, and

**WHEREAS**, Congressman Begich has put forth a Discussion Draft of Legislation to amend the MMPA to rely more on best available science during implementation rather than the 'precautionary principle'.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly supports the Discussion Draft Legislation to Amend the MMPA of 1972 submitted by Congressman Begich that may benefit Aleutians East Borough residents and fishermen without undue harm to animals, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly thanks Congressman Begich for his attention to revising and improving the MMPA of 1972, and for all his efforts to benefit Alaskans.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Aleutians East Borough Assembly on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

  
Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Beverly Rosete, Clerk