



RESOLUTION 26-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH CONTESTING UNLAWFUL ACTIONS BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AT THE FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING THAT EFFECTIVELY END THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA FISHERMEN'S ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROVEN TO CONSERVE CHUM SALMON.

WHEREAS, since 2022, all South Alaska Peninsula seine gear fishermen, working with Area M drift net fishermen, local processors, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Department, have developed and implemented a real-time adaptive management program, proven successful at reducing chum salmon harvest in the June South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery, in an earnest attempt to share in the burden of conservation of dwindling AYK salmon returns, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries met February 18-25, 2026 in Anchorage to consider proposals to change Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands and Chignik finfish regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Board took several 4-3 votes to further restrict South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries, including on RC 245, that essentially ends the successful adaptive management chum salmon conservation program by local fishermen, and

WHEREAS, local tribal representatives from the Native Village of Unga, the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe, the Native Village of Belkofski, the Native Village of False Pass, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and the Pauloff Harbor Tribe presented facts during the meeting in RC 4 and in RC 139, demonstrating that Board Member Chamberlain had significant conflicts of interest that should have precluded Member Chamberlain from voting on any Area M proposals, including South Peninsula salmon proposals, and

WHEREAS, following the 4-3 votes on RC 245 for Proposal 127 and on Proposal 126, that will essentially end the adaptive management salmon chum salmon conservation program, chum salmon harvest is likely to go up in the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery, and

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough applauds the efforts of local fishermen to conserve chum salmon in June and the leadership provided by Fishery Analyst Charlotte Levy to implement the adaptive management program, and

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough stands with our tribal partners in asserting that the 4-3 votes by the Board of Fisheries that further restrict Area M Fisheries, and effectively end the successful adaptive management program, should be voided due to the unlawful participation by Board Member Chamberlain who had multiple conflicts that should have precluded him voting on these issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly contests the unlawful actions by the Alaska Board of Fisheries at the February 2026 Board Meeting that effectively end the successful Adaptive Management Program, proven to conserve chum salmon, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly calls on the Alaska Attorney General to act on the formal ethics complaint filed on February 23, 2026, and to review the legal validity of votes cast by a Board member with a documented, unresolved conflict of interest, including the 4-3 passage of RC 245, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly calls on the Alaska Legislature to examine the Board of Fisheries appointment and ethics process, including the absence of any cooling-off period requirement for Board appointees with prior advocacy positions on matters before the Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly calls on the Alaska Board of Fisheries to take no further votes on Area M fisheries until the conflict-of-interest question raised in the ethics complaint is fully resolved.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Aleutians East Borough Assembly on this 12th day of March 2026.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Beverly Rosete, Clerk