

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2013-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE BOARD OF FISHERIES PROPOSAL 162 TO CLOSE THE WATERS OF UNALASKA BAY TO GROUND FISH FISHING WITH TRAWL GEAR YEAR-ROUND.

WHEREAS, the Unalaska Native Fisherman's Association has submitted Proposal number 162 to the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Fish and Game Advisory Committee and the Qawalangin Tribal Council took formal action in support of proposal 162; and

WHEREAS, this proposal would close year-round Unalaska Bay to groundfish trawling with pelagic trawl gear from a point south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54 degrees 00.50' N. lat., 166 degrees 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54 degrees 01' N lat., 166 degrees 40' W. long.; and

WHEREAS, trawling inside of Unalaska Bay has been an issue of concern for local residents in this community for many years, and this area is minimally used by the Pollock trawl fleet; and

WHEREAS, the Pollock B season catcher vessel allocation for the 2013 Pollock B season stands at 830 million pounds, which puts the percentage of the Unalaska Bay catch at approximately 0.37% of the total harvest; and

WHEREAS, the concern of the local residents is that the influx of trawlers into this very small area during the summer has negatively impacted local residents who are engaged in commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing activities in the Unalaska Bay area; and

WHEREAS, trawling adjacent to some of Unalaska Island's most productive and largest river systems is a major concern to local residents that fish in this area; and

WHEREAS, local residents have long voiced concerns regarding bycatch of salmon and halibut as well as, habitat impacts and lost gear in the Unalaska Bay area during this time of year; and

WHEREAS, proposal 162 is intended to reduce habitat impacts, bycatch of salmon, halibut, herring, and other species in Unalaska Bay and is expected to have a positive impact on habitat, subsistence, sport, and small vessel commercial fishing activities in this area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Unalaska City Council strongly urges the Alaska Board of Fisheries to adopt Proposal 162 for the positive impacts it will have on bycatch reduction, habitat, subsistence, sport, and commercial fishing activities in the Unalaska Bay area.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2013.

MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Approved 4-1 late
On Tuesday February 26, 2013
Signed copy later today.