

RC70

Introduced by: Haggerty, Johnson, Mayor
Date: 02/05/13
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2013-013**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT REDUCE THE CHINOOK SALMON
BYCATCH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA TRAWL FISHERIES**

- WHEREAS,** Chinook salmon is the official fish of Alaska and a cultural icon for both native and nonnative Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS,** Chinook salmon is a significant source of food in both the subsistence and recreational fisheries and a key component of the State's commercial and charter fisheries; and
- WHEREAS,** on September 12, 2012, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster exists for three regions of the Alaska Chinook salmon fishery, including Cook Inlet; and
- WHEREAS,** economic losses to the State of Alaska for commercial and recreational fisheries alone was over \$34 million, which does not include the significant impacts to subsistence users; and
- WHEREAS,** closures in the 2012 Cook Inlet setnet fishery caused by low Chinook salmon returns resulted in a sockeye harvest with an ex-vessel value that was about 10 percent of the recent five-year average; and
- WHEREAS,** the sport fish harvest of late-run Kenai River Chinook was 103 fish, which was 99 percent below the recent five-year average; and
- WHEREAS,** these same Chinook salmon are caught and discarded in the Pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska and other trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** bycatch by the trawl fleets can be regulated to protect the mortality of this extremely valuable resource; and
- WHEREAS,** the Chinook bycatch cap in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is set at 25,000 Chinook salmon, which exceeds the ten-year average bycatch in the fishery; and
- WHEREAS,** the non-pollock Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries currently operate under no bycatch limit; and

KC10

WHEREAS, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering a cap on the non-pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and is initiating a catch share program for Central Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries which should reduce bycatch further;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the KPB Assembly urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to adopt and implement management measures that reduce the Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries by setting new limits.

SECTION 2. That the KPB Assembly urges NPFMC to lower the existing Chinook bycatch limits in the GOA and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to at least half the current limits.

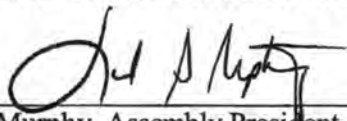
SECTION 3. That the KPB Assembly urges the NPFMC to further reduce Chinook bycatch in any catch share program.

SECTION 4. That the KPB Assembly urges NPFMC to require 100 percent observer coverage in all trawl fisheries in the GOA to provide accurate estimates of bycatch.

SECTION 5. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Parnell and all legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough and all members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

SECTION 6. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.



Linda Murphy, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Pierce, Smith, Tauriainen, Wolf, Murphy
No: None
Absent: Smalley

Dave Lyon, Chairman
Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 47
Homer, Alaska 99603
homeracchair@gmail.com

RECEIVED

February 12, 2013

FEB 27 2013

Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Council:

One of 82 statewide Advisory Committees, the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee takes our responsibility as established by the legislature seriously. Our purpose includes:

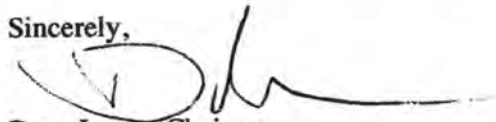
- Developing regulatory proposals
- Evaluating regulatory proposals and making recommendations to the appropriate board
- Providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including matters relating to habitat
- Advising the appropriate regional council on resources
- Consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies

Our comments are directed to the motion you have before you setting a cap on Chinook bycatch in the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. We urge you to select the lowest proposed cap of 5,000 Chinook salmon. Full retention should be required to help facilitate observation and gathering of river-of-origin genetic samples. Although not part of this motion, we favor better observation of this fishery and would suggest a minimum of 36% observer coverage for all trawl fishing activities until a catch share plan can be implemented and 100% coverage is possible.

Many Chinook salmon stakeholders from all over Alaska participating with all gear types would benefit from a recovery of our Chinook salmon runs. Reducing bycatch is just one of the possible solutions and with your help, we do have control over this factor. Balancing the National Standards can be challenging, but in this case, we think National Standard 9 must trump National Standard 1.

Thank you for your service to our fisheries.

Sincerely,



Dave Lyon, Chairman
On behalf of the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Passed unanimously at the February 12, 2013 meeting in Homer

Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish and Game Advisory Committees

Larry Williams
Chairman
PO Box 93
Venetie, AK 99781

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta Junction	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Koyukuk River	Upper Tanana/Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

February 25, 2013

Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817

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MAR -1 2013

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Council:

The Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee (AC) met in Fairbanks on February 19, 2013. At that meeting, the AC voted to unanimously endorse the letter that the Homer Advisory Committee sent your organization dated February 12, 2013.

The Yukon Flats Advisory Committee requests you set the lowest proposed cap of 5,000 Chinook salmon as by-catch in the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. Alaskans and Canadians alike will benefit from this species recovering, and it is within your power to help with that recovery effort. Please do so for all stakeholders of the Yukon River Drainage, both current and future.

Sincerely,
Larry Williams

Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish and Game Advisory Committees

Jack Reakoff
Chairman
114 Newhouse Rd
Wiseman Village, AK 99790

Central
Delta Junction
Eagle
Fairbanks
GASH
Koyukuk River
McGrath

Middle Nenana River
Middle Yukon River
Minto-Nenana
Ruby
Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Upper Tanana/Fortymile
Yukon Flats

February 22, 2013

Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817

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MAR - 1 2013

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Council:

The Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee met in Hughes on February 16, 2013. One of the agenda items was to discuss the letter sent to you by the Homer Advisory Committee dated February 12, 2013. The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee would like to let you know that we endorse the Homer Advisory Committee's stance on this issue.

The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee would also like this chance to note to the members of the council of the hardships that users of the Chinook salmon are experiencing throughout the Yukon River Drainage. This is a fish that people of the entire drainage depend on not only to fill our freezers and smokes houses and feed our children, but also to help carry out customary and traditional practices that we have carried out on for eons. We would like a chance to teach our children and their children those same practices.

The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee urges you to set the lowest proposed cap of 5,000 Chinook salmon as by-catch in the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. Many people from all over Alaska and Canada will benefit from this species recovering, and it is within your power to help with that recovery effort. Please do so for all stakeholders of the Yukon River Drainage, both current and future.

Sincerely,
Jack Reakoff

COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

RESOLUTION 2013-01

A RESOLUTION URGING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT REDUCE THE CHINOOK SALMON BYCATCH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA TRAWL FISHERIES

WHEREAS, Chinook salmon is the official fish of Alaska and a cultural icon for both native and nonnative Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, Chinook salmon is a significant source of food in both the subsistence and recreational fisheries and a key component of the State's commercial and charter fisheries; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2012, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster exists for three regions of the Alaska Chinook salmon fishery, including Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, economic losses to the State of Alaska for commercial and recreational fisheries alone was over \$34 million, which does not include the significant impacts to subsistence users; and

WHEREAS, closures in the 2012 Cook Inlet set net fishery caused by low Chinook salmon returns resulted in a sockeye harvest with an ex-vessel value that was about 10 percent of the recent five-year average; and

WHEREAS, the sport fish harvest of late-run Kenai River Chinook was 103 fish, which was 99 percent below the recent five-year average; and

WHEREAS, these same Chinook salmon are caught and discarded in the Pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska and other trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, by-catch by the trawl fleets can be regulated to protect the mortality of this extremely valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, the Chinook by-catch cap in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is set at 25,000 Chinook salmon, which exceeds the ten-year average by-catch in the fishery; and

WHEREAS, the non-pollock Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries currently operate under no by-catch limit; and

WHEREAS, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering a cap on the non-pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and is initiating a catch share program for Central Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries which should reduce by-catch further;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC):

SECTION 1. That the CLAC urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to adopt and implement management measures that reduce the Chinook salmon by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries by setting new limits.

SECTION 2. That the CLAC urges NPFMC to lower the existing Chinook by-catch limits in the GOA and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to 5,000 Chinook salmon.

SECTION 3. That the CLAC urges the NPFMC to further reduce Chinook by-catch in any catch share program.

SECTION 4. That the CLAC urges NPFMC to require 100 Percent observer coverage in all trawl fisheries in the GOA to provide accurate estimates of by catch.

SECTION 5. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to all members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

SECTION 6. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE COOPER LANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADF&G
THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.**

ATTEST:

George Heim, Chairman, Cooper Landing Advisory Committee