

Arni Thomson

To: Arni Thomson (accrabak@earthlink.net)
Subject: FW: Alaska Salmon Alliance (ASA) supports Resolution 2013-08: A Resolution Supporting the continuation of setnetting in Cook Inlet

To whom it may be of concern: Resolution 2013-08 passed unanimous on December 3, 2013. Arni Thomson

From: Arni Thomson [mailto:accrabak@earthlink.net]

Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 2:58 PM

To: 'kwolf@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'hsmalley@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'wogle@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'dbagley@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'cpierce@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'smcclure@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'bjohnson@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'billsmith@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'mhaggerty@borough.kenai.ak.us'; 'jblankenship@borough.kenai.ak.us'

Cc: 'Paul Dale'; Rob Williams (krwilliams@gmail.com); Norm Darch

Subject: Alaska Salmon Alliance (ASA) supports Resolution 2013-08: A Resolution Supporting the continuation of setnetting in Cook Inlet

Kenai Peninsula Assembly Members:

The ASA representing Snug Harbor Sfds., Pacific Star Seafoods, Icicle Seafoods and Great Pacific Seafoods, all registered Alaskan corporations with plants and operations throughout the Kenai Peninsula fully supports Resolution 2013-08. Our companies have for decades been economically dependent on the sockeye salmon production of drift net boats and shorebased set net independent family owned businesses on the Kenai Peninsula, as the main stay product that supports our operations. With declining production for set net operations due to lost fishing time from overly burdensome regulations, 400 set net families still accounted for an estimated 35% of sockeye production, which paid \$13 million to the fishermen. The commercial sockeye salmon fishery is the core fishery that is responsible for us being able to maintain operations on the Peninsula, and to attract halibut, black cod, and Pacific cod from this region, and to also attract salmon species from other regions, including Bristol Bay, the Yukon River, Kotzebue and Prince William Sound. This year, the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon harvest paid \$37 million dollars to the combined fleet for a harvest of 2.6 million fish which weighed in at 16 million pounds. A similar or larger harvest is anticipated for 2014, and sockeye salmon markets remain strong.

A May 2013 Northern Economics fisheries economic analysis of the Kenai Peninsula-based fisheries for the year 2011, commissioned by the ASA illustrates significant economic contributions to the diverse Peninsula economy: 3,600 fishing jobs, with overall Alaskan residency of 80%; 1,600 processing jobs; \$212 million first wholesale export value, all species; combined labor income to fisherman at \$78 million; processing income, \$30 million, for a total labor payroll of \$108 million. Combining the ports of Seward, Kenai, Homer and Anchorage and total landings of all species in these ports—they would rank as the sixth largest port in the US in landed value of species. During the period 1980-2011, the accumulated harvest value of Cook Inlet salmon using 2012 inflation adjusted dollars was \$2.15 billion.

The ballot initiative to remove a meaningful and traditional resident-based sector of the Kenai Peninsula economy as part of an overall plan to reallocate to another sector based on questionable science, is a slap in the face to a long established Alaskan tradition of respecting your neighbor and his way of life.

Arni Thomson, Executive Director
 Alaska Salmon Alliance
 Kenai, AK 99611

Introduced by: Bagley, Johnson, Smalley, Mayor
Date: 12/03/13
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2013-081**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF
SETNETTING IN COOK INLET**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Fisheries Conservation Alliance has started an initiative to ban commercial fishery setnets from Alaska's urban areas, including Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, the initiative to ban setnets has been filed with Alaska Lieutenant Governor, Mead Treadwell; and

WHEREAS, if the initiative passes legal requirements, and the sponsors gather signatures of qualified voters equal in number to 10 percent of those who voted in the preceding General Election, the initiative will appear on the primary election ballot in August of 2016; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the initiative is the low abundance of king salmon; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has the authority to close fisheries for conservation purposes and has often exercised that authority; and

WHEREAS, on their public information database the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission lists about 736 Cook Inlet salmon setnet permits, of which 444 are owned by people with a Kenai Peninsula Borough address and 615 are owned by people with an Alaskan address; and

WHEREAS, banning setnets to conserve king salmon is both capricious and unwarranted;

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

SECTION 1. That the KPB Assembly officially opposes the proposed ban on setnetting.

SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution be provided to all municipal members of Alaska Municipal League.

SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 3RD DAY DECEMBER, 2013.

Hal Smalley

Hal Smalley, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Johni Blankenship

Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bagley, Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Ogle, Smalley, Smith
No: None
Absent: Pierce, Wolf