

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 15-__**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES HOLD THE 2017 UPPER COOK INLET BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has followed a process to decide two years in advance where to hold their meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fisheries decided in 2014 to hold the next Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting in 2017 in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly passed a resolution (14-098) in support of holding the 2017 meeting in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage is an ideal location for the Board of Fisheries meetings since it has ample meeting and lodging facilities to host large gatherings; and

WHEREAS, having the 2017 Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage will allow the greatest accessibility for Upper Cook Inlet residents from the Kenai to Mat-Su to participate in public testimony and committee meetings during the two week sessions; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage is the most affordable location for the public to attend in terms of travel time, facilities and taking time off from their work; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fisheries has decided to reconsider the location of the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting at their December 2 meeting in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, holding a meeting on the Kenai Peninsula would require significant expense, travel time and interruptions from employment for the majority of the Upper Cook Inlet population living in Anchorage and the Mat-Su; and

WHEREAS, it has been over 20 years since a Board of Fisheries meeting was held in the Mat-Su; and

WHEREAS, an Upper Cook Inlet regulatory Board of Fisheries meeting has never been held in the Mat-Su; and

WHEREAS, the Mat-Su has been the fastest growing region of the state for the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, the largest number of designated stocks of concern are in the Mat-Su, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fisheries has already made a decision to hold a work session in early 2017 in the Kenai Peninsula Borough which will provide opportunities for public testimony on Upper Cook Inlet proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fisheries has already scheduled two

meetings on the Kenai of the five meetings to be held in their 2017 cycle;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests the Alaska Board of Fisheries hold the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet meeting in Anchorage to ensure well attended, productive meetings with minimum expense to the attendees and maximum public participation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the Alaska Board of Fisheries decides to move the location of the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet meeting outside of Anchorage that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is willing and able to host the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet meetings.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2015.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)