

Introduced By:	Mayor Sprague
Date:	October 11, 2017
Action:	Adopted
Vote:	6 Yes, 0 No

CITY OF SOLDOTNA  
RESOLUTION 2017-043

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES HOLD ITS NEXT  
UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH MEETING ON THE CENTRAL KENAI PENINSULA

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WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries is scheduled to meet October 17-19, 2017, and may consider the location and dates for the 2019/2020 meeting cycle which would include a meeting addressing Upper Cook Inlet area finfish; and

WHEREAS, Upper Cook Inlet finfish issues are vitally important to and directly impact residents, municipal governments, and communities on the Kenai Peninsula, and the majority of Upper Cook Inlet finfish proposals considered by the Board of Fisheries pertain to central Kenai Peninsula area watersheds; and

WHEREAS, many local residents and businesses of the Kenai Peninsula depend on, participate in, and are otherwise affected by decisions made by the Board of Fisheries with regard to subsistence fisheries, sport fisheries, commercial fisheries, personal use fisheries, and conservation measures in Upper Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the Board of Fisheries' members to hear from members of the public from the Kenai Peninsula Borough as well as Anchorage and Matanuska Susitna Borough residents, and to view firsthand the rivers and the infrastructure created by the finfish fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the costs and travel time to attend meetings outside the Kenai Peninsula pose a significant burden to local residents, limiting participation and the Board of Fisheries' ability to benefit from local knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has not held its Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting on the Peninsula since 1999 despite numerous requests that it do so, the Board of Fisheries held a successful work session in early 2017 on the peninsula in 2017, but a work session is not as significant as a regular meeting; and

WHEREAS, holding the meeting on the Kenai Peninsula would show local residents, businesses, and communities that the Board of Fisheries listens, cares about, and understands the local impacts of its decisions; and

WHEREAS, there are ample local quality venues of sufficient size with technologic capabilities to host public meetings, as well as exceptional lodging and dining opportunities on the central Kenai Peninsula;

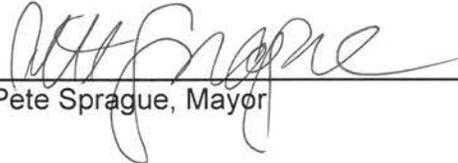
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

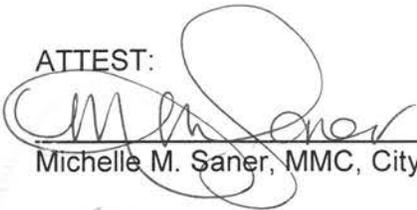
Section 1. That the Alaska Board of Fisheries is respectfully and strongly urged by the Soldotna City Council to hold the next Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting on the central Kenai Peninsula.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Bill Walker, Senator Peter Micciche, Senator Gary Stevens, Representative Mike Chenault, Representative Gary Knopp, Representative Paul Seaton, Representative Louise Stutes, Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotten, Alaska Board of Fish Director Glenn Haight, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries Members.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 11TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017.

  
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Pete Sprague, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle M. Saner, MMC, City Clerk

Yes: Parker, Whitney, Daniels, Cox, Cashman, Murphy  
No: None



# SOLDOTNA

Office of the Mayor

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Pete Sprague, Mayor  
**DATE:** October 11, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2017-043 – Requesting the Alaska Board of Fisheries Hold its Next Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting on the Central Kenai Peninsula

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meets every three years to consider regulations governing fishing for Upper Cook Inlet finfish. While the BOF has met on the Kenai Peninsula for some work sessions and task force meetings, it has not had a full regular meeting on the Kenai Peninsula since 1999. The management and health of Upper Cook Inlet finfish has a major impact on residents and visitors to the Kenai Peninsula. Attending these meetings in Anchorage can be cost prohibitive to many people from the Kenai Peninsula, regardless of how they participate in the fishery.

The Board of Fisheries will be considering the location for the next Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting during its work session on October 17-19, 2017. The Cities of Soldotna and Kenai, as well as the Kenai Peninsula Borough, submitted a letter requesting that the meeting be held in the central Kenai Peninsula area. This resolution strongly urges the Alaska Board of Fisheries to hold its next regular Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting on the central Kenai Peninsula.

Your consideration is appreciated.