

**LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH**

**RC 059**

**RESOLUTION 23-10**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR CHIGNIK AND AREA M BOARD OF FISHERIES ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE FEBRUARY 2023 ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Board of Fisheries will be meeting February 20<sup>th</sup> to February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to address Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish management where several proposed changes will be discussed; and

**WHEREAS**, the five communities of the Chignik area (Chignik, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville and Ivanof Bay) are located within the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, all five Native communities of the Chignik area are culturally and economically dependent on Black Lake (early run) and Chignik Lake (late run) sockeye salmon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lake and Peninsula Borough wishes to formalize their stance on the Chignik and Area M Board of Fisheries proposals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has proposed changing from two distinct Chignik escapement goals - a BEG and an SEG - into a single BEG based on the sole assumption that changes in freshwater habitat has increased competition of juvenile salmon and created a bottleneck in the ecosystem to justify a single BEG; and,

**WHEREAS**, this reasoning is based on an untested assumption, that there is no clear evidence that density-dependent processes in these two stocks plays out at this single life stage, and is based on dubious scientific analyses that have not undergone independent peer-review; and,

**WHEREAS**, Chignik sockeye stocks are intercepted in Area M waters in significant numbers; and

**WHEREAS**, Chignik Early run sockeye were designated a Stock of Management concern in March 2022 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, and

**WHEREAS**, Area M fishers need to share the burden of conservation of Chignik bound sockeye stocks, and

**WHEREAS**, 5 AAC 39.220 – Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries (authority: AS 16.05.258): “(b) ...when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern...”, and

**WHEREAS**, Chignik fishers need increased access to Chignik area pinks and chums in August given the decline in local sockeye salmon abundance, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Lake and Peninsula Borough opposes proposal 105 and 132 which assume a single Chignik sockeye escapement goal, thereby complicating the management of the Early Run as a Stock of Management Concern; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough supports proposals 133 and 150 which place reasonable conservation burdens on the area M fishery to allow increased passage of Chignik bound sockeye; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough supports proposals 111 and 118 which increases Chignik fishers opportunities to harvest local pinks and chums.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly this 21st day of February 2023.

**IN WITNESS THERETO:**



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Glen Alsworth Sr., Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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Kate Conley, Borough Clerk