

RC 060

LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 23-07

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN ECONOMIC EMERGENCY AND
REQUESTING STATE OF ALASKA TO PROVIDE AID AND RELIEF
FOR 2022 CHIGNIK SALMON FISHERY**

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, federal disaster declarations have been made for the 2018, 2020, and 2021 Chignik salmon seasons which has very rapidly depressed the five year average value of the fishery; and,

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of these repeated disasters in such a short period of time has produced extreme economic hardship on the fishermen and fishing communities of the Chignik area; and,

WHEREAS, the 2022 Chignik fishing season has produced further loss of 36% compared to this recent depressed five-year average; and,

WHEREAS, many residents experienced difficulty finding enough subsistence fish and others sacrificed their rights to subsistence fish wanting every fish possible to escape to support future salmon returns; and,

WHEREAS, household income in the communities are likely to fall well below the federal poverty guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the local communities and borough will continue to experience a substantial reduction in revenues from local, borough and state shared fishery taxes, which are the primary source of annual revenues used to provide essential government services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Lake and Peninsula Borough, acting on behalf of the five communities of the Chignik area, respectfully asks that the Governor request a federal declaration of a fishery disaster for the 2022 Chignik salmon season; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska render as much aid and assistance as possible and take such action as promptly as possible; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that such aid and assistance shall include, but not be limited to, immediate help with foods provision, energy utility assistance, and accelerated

access to aid for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Low Income High Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and unemployment benefits; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska provide immediate aid and assistance to affected commercial fishery permit holders, including if possible permit fees reimbursement, commercial fishery loans relief, and waiver of 2022 vessel insurance payments; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska explore and implement options to offset all or most of the expected impact to all affected municipalities and communities from lost local, borough and state shared fishery tax revenues; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska explore all available options to provide long-term economic aid to restore the fishery, prevent a similar failure in the future, and assist the affected communities to develop sustainable economies including needed capital project spending with a focus on employment of local residents; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska uses its good offices to urge federal agencies to render all available assistance as promptly as possible across the same range of needs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly, Staff and citizens recognize and appreciate the State's cooperation and partnership in responding to this economic and social disaster.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly this 17th day of January 2023.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Glen Alsworth Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Kate Conley, Borough Clerk