

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNDERSIGNED MUNICIPALITIES AND FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES OF SOUTHWEST ALASKA CALLING FOR FACT-BASED DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF ALASKA FISHERIES AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Southwest Alaska is one of the most important seafood-producing regions in the United States, home to four of the nation's top fishing ports and a seafood industry that contributes nearly 70 percent of Alaska's seafood processing output, supports thousands of jobs, and generates the majority of Alaska's shared fisheries tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, between 2015 and 2024, economic activity in Southwest Alaska communities generated approximately 75 percent of all shared fisheries tax revenues in Alaska, demonstrating the region's critical contribution to local governments and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the economic health of Southwest Alaska is directly tied to the continued sustainability of Alaska's fisheries and the marine, fuel, and supply chain systems that leverage the economy of scale from our fisheries to serve our communities; and

WHEREAS, public debate regarding Alaska fisheries increasingly includes proposals that could significantly affect fishing families, seafood workers, processors, local governments, Alaska Native communities, and coastal economies, often without full consideration of the economic, social, and cultural consequences of such actions; and

WHEREAS, the long-term success of Alaska's fisheries depends upon management systems that continuously improve through rigorous scientific research, stock assessment, ecosystem monitoring, transparency, accountability, and meaningful engagement with the communities most directly affected by management decisions; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Alaska communities possess generations of local knowledge and practical experience that complement scientific research and contribute to effective stewardship of Alaska's marine resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned communities of Southwest Alaska reaffirm their support for fisheries management that is science-based, adaptive, transparent, accountable, inclusive, and committed to continuous improvement as environmental, economic, and social conditions evolve;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that management decisions should consider both biological sustainability and the economic and social impacts on fishing families, seafood workers,



processors, Alaska Native communities, local governments, and the broader statewide economy supported by Alaska fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and federal fisheries policies should recognize the inseparable relationship between healthy fish stocks and healthy fishing communities and should be developed in partnership with the communities whose economies, cultures, and futures depend upon sustainable fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska's policymakers and management agencies should prioritize investments in fisheries research, stock assessment, climate and ecosystem science, seafood market development, workforce development, and transportation and infrastructure systems that support sustainable fisheries and resilient coastal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the communities of Southwest Alaska call upon all candidates for public office, policymakers, advocacy organizations, and Alaskans to engage in informed, respectful, and fact-based dialogue regarding the future of Alaska fisheries and to carefully consider the impacts of proposed policies on the communities, workers, families, and businesses that depend upon continued access to sustainably managed fisheries resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meaningful public discussion about Alaska fisheries should be grounded in science, informed by the experiences of fishing communities, and focused on solutions that sustain both marine resources and the people who depend upon them; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska Legislature, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, municipal governments, tribal organizations, and all candidates for statewide and federal office in Alaska.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of June, 2026.

Signed

Attest:

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

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