

CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY-26-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA, OPPOSING THE USE OF
HEAVY FUEL OIL BY VESSELS IN ALASKA WATERS**

WHEREAS, a healthy marine environment supports the health and wellbeing of Alaska's residents by providing access to marine resources that are a cornerstone of our food security and healthy diet, including salmon, halibut, crab, and other species; and

WHEREAS, the ability of Alaskans to live close to the land and waters and to harvest, hunt, and subsist in a healthy and productive environment is a core Alaska value; and

WHEREAS, a healthy marine environment also provides many key economic opportunities, including commercial fisheries, the recreation industry, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, we Alaskans, as stewards of our natural environment, are responsible for passing on a healthy place to future generations; and

WHEREAS, most large cruise ships operating in Southeast Alaska's waters typically burn approximately 45,000 gallons of fuel daily for propulsion, primarily heavy fuel oil (HFO), a viscous residue from the refining of crude oil and the cheapest and dirtiest fuel oil sold in North America; and

WHEREAS, HFO contains high concentrations of metals, long-chain hydrocarbons, and sulfur; and

WHEREAS, to minimize air pollution, the engine exhaust from cruise ships burning HFO is "scrubbed" by spraying it with a mist of saltwater, and this saltwater, with its pollutants, is discharged overboard; and

WHEREAS, HFO pollution can be avoided by using cleaner fuel that is carried aboard cruise ships for use in locations where they cannot burn HFO, such as in Glacier Bay; and

WHEREAS, immediately after leaving Glacier Bay and entering Icy Strait, cruise ships may revert to burning heavy fuel oil and discharging scrubber wastewater; and

WHEREAS, the State of California prohibits the burning of heavy fuel oil in its marine waters, and

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus, Alaska, opposes the discharge of pollutants into Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, burning cleaner fuel is protective of our environment and the long-term health of our communities and economy; and

WHEREAS, switching to cleaner fuel while in Alaska waters does not pose an undue economic burden on the cruise industry and is estimated to cost about \$25 per passenger on a week-long cruise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Gustavus, Alaska, calls on the shipping and cruise ship industries to end the use of heavy fuel oil and the discharge of scrubber wastewater in all of Alaska's marine waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Gustavus, Alaska, calls on the State of Alaska to prohibit the use of heavy fuel oil and exhaust scrubbers in Alaska state waters.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Gustavus City Council this ____ day of , 2026, and effective upon adoption.

Sally A. McLaughlin, Mayor

Attest: Morgan Peterson-Park, Acting City Clerk