

Presented by: Triem
Presented: 02/27/2023
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3023(b)

A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Opposing the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit and Protecting the Southeast Alaska Troll Fishery from Closure.

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska’s economy, the largest private sector employer in the state, and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska, and trollers derive an estimated 44% of their income from the Chinook catch; and

WHEREAS, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to the Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 581 fishing and seafood processing jobs in Juneau that represent approximately \$27.4 million in wages, which includes commercial salmon trollers and processors that depend on Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, the troll fleet, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, has a total annual economic impact of approximately \$85 million across Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit, *Wild Fish Conservancy v. Rumsey et al.*, in the Western District of Washington State Federal Court (No. C20-417-RAJ-MLP) challenges the National Marine Fisheries Service fishery management plan and seeks the closure of the Southeast troll fishery—except from May 1 through June 30—in an effort to provide more Chinook salmon to the endangered Southern Resident killer whales located in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, many communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the pending litigation results in the closure of the Southeast troll fishery.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF
34 JUNEAU, ALASKA:

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36 **Section 1.** The City and Borough of Juneau urges the National Marine Fisheries
37 Service (NMFS) to prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to
38 support continuation of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries.

39 **Section 2.** The City and Borough of Juneau supports the NMFS and the Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game's commitment to defend Southeast Alaska's hatchery system
41 and troll fishery.

42 **Section 3.** The City and Borough of Juneau urges all state and local governmental
43 bodies to work with Alaska's congressional delegation to protect Southeast Alaska's
44 economic, cultural, and social livelihood related to Chinook salmon while also protecting the
45 Southern Resident killer whale population.

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47 **Section 4.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

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49 Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2023.

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Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

53 Attest:
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57 Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

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