

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
RESOLUTION #2023-02**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL FISHERY AND
URGING THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE AND THE ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME TO COMMIT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO
DEFEND ALASKA'S FISHERIES**

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is a mainstay of Petersburg's economy and the largest private sector employer in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Alaska troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska with 44% of fishing income to trollers being derived from their Chinook catch; and

WHEREAS, approximately 22% of the Southeast Alaska troll fleet permits are home-ported in Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, 133 unique troll permits reported Petersburg as port of landing in the 2021 troll fish ticket records; and

WHEREAS, 14% of the total 2021 winter chinook troll fishery catch was landed in Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Petersburg's economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

WHEREAS, including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact in Petersburg of approximately \$4.25 million annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and

WHEREAS, the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the community of Petersburg will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly for the Petersburg Borough strongly urges that:

1. NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and
2. NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish & Game commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and
3. All necessary and available state, federal or private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors; and

4. The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on February 6, 2023..

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk