

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
RESOLUTION #2025-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OF PETERSBURG,
ALASKA, SUPPORTING ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (ADFG)
PROPOSAL 243 AND OPPOSING ADFG PROPOSAL 242, BOTH OF WHICH WILL
BE CONSIDERED AT THE JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 9, 2025, ALASKA BOARD
OF FISHERIES MEETING**

WHEREAS, the commercial Southeast Alaska Red King Crab fishery is almost exclusively an Alaskan resident fishery; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough has the largest commercial Red King Crab fleet in the State of Alaska and the largest crab processor in the region; and

WHEREAS, the current ADFG Red King Crab management plan does not allow for annual commercial Red King Crab harvest even when there is a harvestable surplus; and

WHEREAS, ADFG has proposed a new management plan in Proposal 243 that will allow for a commercial fishery when scientifically and biologically available; and

WHEREAS, the Borough supports the scientific analysis of the State of Alaska and ADFG, which protects and allows a sustainable harvest of the Red King Crab resource on which coastal communities like Petersburg depend; and

WHEREAS, when open, the commercial Red King Crab fishery supports 100 local fishing and processing jobs, and provides \$2 million in additional fishing income; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 243 was generated in collaboration with ADFG, the fishing community and processing community; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 243 will not hurt other user groups of Red King Crab, it will only allow access to Red King Crab already allocated to the commercial fishery; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 242 would reallocate the remaining commercial Red King Crab Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) in area 11-A to the personal use fishery; and

WHEREAS, personal use fishermen already receive 60% of the Red King Crab GHL in 11-A; and

WHEREAS, Area 11-A's biomass is important to the area wide stock assessment for the commercial fishery; and

WHEREAS, reallocating 11-A Red King Crab from the commercial GHL to personal use would lead to further season closures of the commercial fishery and would reduce harvest opportunity for the local commercial fishing fleet.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH ASSEMBLY,
THAT:**

Section 1. The Petersburg Borough Assembly strongly supports Proposal 243 and opposes Proposal 242, both of which are scheduled for consideration at the January 28 - February 9, 2025, Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. The Assembly urges the Board to support Proposal 243 and oppose Proposal 242 to prevent detrimental economic and social impacts on Alaska's coastal fishing industry and communities.

Section 2. The Petersburg Borough reaffirms its support for ADFG and the commercial Red King Crab fleet, acknowledging their essential contributions to Petersburg's economy, community well-being, and sustainable fishery practices.

Section 3. The Petersburg Borough calls upon the Alaska Board of Fisheries to commit to science-based, objective assessments for Red King Crab management, working in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the processing industry, and the fishing community to ensure that management decisions reflect the value and benefits Alaska's fishing industry brings to all residents.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Petersburg Borough Assembly this 6th day of January, 2025.

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Regula, Deputy Clerk