CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA RESOLUTION 05-15-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA TO OPPOSE NAVY TRAINING EXERCISES IN THE GULF OF ALASKA IN JUNE 2015

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova is the governing body with the full power and authority as recognized by the citizens of Cordova, to act for its members, and has responsibility to provide government for the good health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, these trainings will pollute the waters of the Gulf of Alaska by annually releasing approximately 352,000 pounds of expended materials including 10,000 pounds of hazardous materials including cyanide, chromium, lead, tungsten, nickel, cadmium, barium chromate, chlorides, phosphorus, titanium compounds, lead oxide, potassium perchlorate, lead chromate, ammonium perchlorate, fulminate of mercury, and lead azide into waters designated by NOAA as Essential Fish Habitat for a multitude of species that support the economic development in Alaskan coastal communities and harvest of wild Alaskan salmon for global markets; and

WHEREAS, the training area and vicinity is a highly productive region for many marine fish and shellfish populations and supports some of the most productive fisheries in the United States. It is also an important spawning area for many fishes, and the training is scheduled to take place during the summer season when many fish populations are migrating and spawning. At least 383 species belonging to 84 families of marine and anadromous fishes have been reported from the predominant ecosystems found in the training area; and

WHEREAS, the port of Cordova is often ranked in the top 15 U.S. ports for quantity of seafood landed and dollar value of seafood harvests (Fisheries of the U.S., NOAA), illustrating coastal Alaska's reliance on the fish and wildlife resources in the Gulf of Alaska for their subsistence harvest and the livelihoods supported by commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova supports all cultural, traditional and subsistence activities historically and continually practiced by Native and non-Native peoples in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova finds no scientific information or traditional knowledge demonstrating that the training activities can take place without negatively affecting salmon, whale, bird and other marine habitats.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska does hereby request that the Navy refrain from using live ordnance or sonar in any Marine Protected Area, including NOAA Fisheries Marine Protected Areas, State Marine Protected Areas and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; and, the City of Cordova requests the Navy move these trainings 200 nautical miles from Alaskan shoreline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska recommends that the Navy training exercises be moved to a later date, after the middle of September 2015, so as not to impact migrating salmon and be relocated in the far southeast corner of the designated training area.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6th DAY OF MAY 2015

ATTEST:

Susan Bourgeoid CMC City Clerk