CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 09-19-39

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA STATING SUPPORT FOR AREA E SALMON FISHERIES AND OPPOSITION TO EXPLORATION OR DRILLING FOR OIL OR GAS IN THE GULF OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova is home to the largest commercial fishing fleet in southcentral Alaska's Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the ex-vessel value and quantity of seafood landed in Cordova regularly ranks the Port of Cordova among the top 15 commercial fishing ports nationwide as reported in *Fisheries of the U.S.* published annually by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling facilities around Katalla and within Controller Bay and the Bering River District would result in a loss of fishing area and time for Area E drift gillnet permit holders; and

WHEREAS, the area proposed for oil and gas exploration is immediately adjacent to the Copper River Delta Critical Habitat Area (AS 16.20.600); and

WHEREAS, a proposal for oil and gas exploration under Lease Sale 79 off Cape Yakataga was protested heavily by the community of Cordova in 1994; and

WHEREAS, exploration license conditions to restrict locating drilling facilities within 500' of documented fish waters or within a half-mile of the Katalla, Bering, Nichawak, Campbell, Edwardes, and Okalee Rivers offer insufficient protection from oil spills for spawning and rearing habitat for wild salmon; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound Subarea Contingency Plan, cited as one of the two oil spill response plans providing protection and spill response guidance for Prince William Sound, does not contain a Geographic Response Strategy for Katalla or Controller Bay.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of Cordova, Alaska recommends following the cautionary principle to protect its salmon economy by opposing issuance of a license for oil and gas exploration on or offshore of the eastern Copper River delta.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019

Melina Meyer, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk