

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 07-21-33**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, UPDATING
IT'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE US SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE TO DECLARE FISHERIES DISASTERS FOR THE COPPER RIVER AND
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA AS FOLLOWS: 2018 CHINOOK AND
SOCKEYE SALMON AND 2020 CHINOOK, SOCKEYE, CHUM, PINK AND COHO
SALMON; AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SAME TO DECLARE A CONDITION OF
ECONOMIC DISASTER IN CORDOVA AS A RESULT**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approved Resolution 08-20-31 on August 5, 2020 which was a Resolution encouraging the State of Alaska and the US Secretary of Commerce to declare certain fisheries disasters that affected the City of Cordova, the businesses and citizens of the City, and all Prince William Sound salmon fishermen; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to update the language used in that resolution to include 2020 Pink Salmon and 2020 Coho Salmon to the list of affected fisheries and to provide more and updated statistics in support; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Copper River Sockeye Salmon harvest of 44,400 fish was 97% less than the previous 10-year harvest average of 1.29 million Sockeye Salmon and the second lowest harvest in the last 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Copper River Drift Gillnet fishery harvest of 98,300 Sockeye Salmon was 92% lower than the prior 10-year average harvest of 1.31 million fish; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound Drift Gillnet and Set Gillnet fleets saw a significant reduction in fishery hours and catch during the 2020 season in all fishery districts for sockeye and chum salmon compared to the prior 10-year average; and

WHEREAS, all salmon stocks throughout Alaska saw a significant decline in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the most recent 5-even-year average ex vessel value for pink salmon in the S03E salmon seine fishery is approximately \$222,952 per vessel; and

WHEREAS, the average ex vessel value in 2020 was \$133,033 per vessel, or 59% of the prior 5-even-year average value, a drop of 41%; and

WHEREAS, the average total common property harvest of pink salmon in Prince William Sound from 2010-2018 is 30.75 million pink salmon; and

WHEREAS, the total common property harvest of pink salmon in Prince William Sound in 2020 was 18.15 million pink salmon, a drop of 41% below the prior 5-even-year average; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation fell 32% short of the aggregate pink salmon egg take goal across three hatcheries; and

WHEREAS, financial impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic continue to impact the fishing community significantly and ex vessel prices were considerably lower in 2020 than in previous recent years, further compounding economic hardship within the community; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation has experienced significant difficulty in attaining adequate broodstock for Sockeye Salmon at Gulkana Hatchery in recent years and did not meet its aggregate sockeye/chum cost recovery goal for Prince William Sound hatcheries in 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska encourages the State of Alaska and the United States Secretary of Commerce to declare fisheries disasters in the Copper River and Prince William Sound Management Area based on the considerably low returns and harvests as follows: 2018 Chinook and Sockeye Salmon and 2020 Chinook, Sockeye Chum, Pink and Coho Salmon.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF JULY 2021.



Attest:



Clay R. Koplín, Mayor



Tina Hammer, Deputy Clerk