CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA RESOLUTION 11-21-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, SUPPORTING CERTAIN PROPOSALS AND OPPOSING OTHER PROPOSALS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AT ITS MEETING IN CORDOVA NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 6, 2021

WHEREAS, Cordova's City Council recognizes the challenges facing the Alaska Board of Fisheries and understands the difficult deliberations that the Board will be undertaking this cycle as it meets with a goal to conserve and maintain the fishery resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, while the decisions made, and the regulations adopted by the Board will be far-reaching, they will be most consequential in Alaskan coastal cities such as Cordova where commercial fishing is the primary economic driver and the life-blood of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Copper River Flats Drift Gillnet fishery has seen a marked decline over the last several years which has significantly negatively affected the City of Cordova via lost revenue in lower raw fish taxes, in lower sales taxes due to less money spent locally on goods and services which trickles down to every facet of the economy here; and

WHEREAS, CDFU (Cordova District Fishermen United), a well-informed, industry leader has submitted many proposals to be considered at the Board of Fisheries meetings in Cordova; and

WHEREAS, CDFU's different divisions, CDFU's officers and staff members have spent many hours preparing proposals and also studying and considering the ramifications and impacts of other proposals that have been submitted; and

WHEREAS, Cordova's City Council represents the voters and citizens of Cordova and owes an allegiance to the processing plants that are well-established here, to the hatcheries in PWS that contribute immensely to the economy of the region, to the many commercial fishing businesses that are home-ported here and to the locally owned, ancillary businesses that support the fishing fleets; and

WHEREAS, proposals that the City of Cordova is inclined to support are ones that most importantly are beneficial to the salmon hatcheries and the commercial fishing industry while still respecting quantifiable science and are rooted in conservation of resources for future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, relying on the expertise of CDFU and other industry professionals hereby declares to the Alaska Board of Fisheries its support of certain proposals and its opposition to other proposals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska does hereby support proposals: 1 (diversification into different fisheries would be beneficial for Cordova fishermen), 6-10, 14, 15, 19 (these seven proposals aim to responsibly regulate sport and personal use), 38-40 (these will protect the diminishing Coho returns in light of unprecedented pressure from sport fishermen), 61-67, 69-72 (these would increase winter fishing opportunities allowing for more economic diversification for the fleet, more crew member jobs; the City and support businesses in Cordova would thereby also benefit), 247, 248, 252 and 253; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska does hereby oppose proposals: 5, 18, 21 (commercial fleet has seen unprecedented closures therefore, the personal use fishery should not be allowed more area and time) 49-55 (these 7 proposals have no basis in science, hatcheries have been successful for over 40 years) and 75.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.

ATTEST:

Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

Clay R Kopld R. Koplin, Mayor