

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 02-26-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, OPPOSING
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES PROPOSALS 170, 171, AND 172, AND SUPPLEMENTAL
PROPOSAL 187 TO BE HEARD AT THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES STATEWIDE
FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES MEETING MARCH 17-20, 2026**

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova and surrounding Prince William Sound communities rely heavily on commercial fishing and salmon-related industries to support local employment, food security, harbor revenues, municipal services, and long-term economic stability; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound hatchery programs are foundational regional infrastructure that support commercial fisheries, sport and subsistence opportunity, salmon research and recovery, and the continued viability of Cordova's working waterfront; and

WHEREAS, hatchery-supported salmon production underpins local processing capacity, tender fleets, seasonal and year-round jobs, and private investment across Prince William Sound, with economic impacts extending throughout the region's communities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's hatchery system operates under a rigorous, science-based permitting framework administered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, providing monitoring, genetics review, reporting requirements, and adaptive management to protect wild stocks while sustaining fishing opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Proposals 170, 171, and 172 would impose broad, non-targeted hatchery production reductions that are not tied to region-specific biological performance or adaptive management processes, and would significantly weaken hatchery-supported research, recovery programs, and fishing opportunity in Prince William Sound without demonstrated conservation benefit; and

WHEREAS, abrupt statewide hatchery cuts would create immediate economic harm to Cordova and neighboring communities by destabilizing processors, tender fleets, harbor activity, municipal revenues, and local employment, while increasing uncertainty for fishermen and businesses already navigating climate impacts and rising operational costs; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 187 would close a longstanding commercial fishery in the Tsiu River area despite recent seasons demonstrating strong escapement and successful harvest, effectively reallocating the resource away from community-based fishermen from Cordova and Yakutat without a demonstrated conservation need; and

WHEREAS, eliminating this commercial fishery would increase the risk of over-escapement, remove an effective management tool, and introduce unnecessary conflict among user groups while reducing economic opportunity for regional fishing communities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s fisheries management system is strongest when decisions are grounded in regional science, local stewardship, and transparent public process rather than broad statewide mandates that fail to reflect place-based conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska respectfully urges the Alaska Board of Fisheries to:

- 1) Take **no action** on Proposals 170, 171, and 172; and
- 2) Take **no action** on Proposal 187.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council affirms its support for science-based, regionally informed fisheries management that protects Prince William Sound communities, sustains Cordova’s working waterfront, maintains fishing opportunity across user groups, and preserves Alaska’s hatchery system as critical infrastructure for salmon research, recovery, and long-term resilience.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026





Kristin Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk