

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

Lewis

**RESOLUTION 14-019(A)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
STRONGLY OPPOSING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
PROPOSALS 138, 139, 140, 142, AND 143 THAT CLOSE OR  
RESTRICT WATERS OF COOK INLET NEAR HOMER TO  
COMMERCIAL DRIFT FISHING.

WHEREAS, The waters of the Cook Inlet Commercial Drift Fishing District Area 1 are the  
closest drift fishing grounds to Homer encompassing approximately 600 square miles of Cook  
Inlet from Anchor Point north to Kalgin Island; and

WHEREAS, The waters of Area 1 have been part of the traditional fishing grounds of  
the Cook Inlet Commercial Drift Fishery since statehood; and

WHEREAS, Area 1 is integral to the Homer fishing economy; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals 138, 139, 140, 142, and 143 close or  
restrict commercial drift fishing in Area 1; and

WHEREAS, Closing Area 1 to commercial drift fishing will result a tripling of travel time  
for Homer based vessels to reach fishing grounds; and

WHEREAS, Increased travel costs will force the over 100 vessels that represent the  
Homer based drift commercial fishing fleet to relocate to communities closer to open fishing  
grounds; and

WHEREAS, Businesses in Homer would lose the economic activity associated with  
provisioning the fleet in Homer including food, fuel, supplies, gear, and professional marine  
trades services; and

WHEREAS, Local jobs in seafood processing, marine trades, and trucking will be  
negatively impacted if fish is delivered to another port; and

38 WHEREAS, The Homer Port and Harbor identified 170 accounts comprised of fishing  
39 vessels, tenders, and seafood processors participating in the Upper Cook Inlet drift fishery in  
40 2013; and

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42 WHEREAS, Problems with Susitna salmon production have been identified and are the  
43 result of freshwater habitat issues; and

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45 WHEREAS, Intensive management of saltwater fisheries will never solve the problems  
46 found in the freshwater habitats of spawning and rearing salmon; and

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48 WHEREAS, The Board of Fisheries should eliminate restrictions on Central District drift  
49 gillnetting during the July 9 through July 31 time period because it is now known that these  
50 restrictions are not an effective method of improving Susitna sockeye production; and

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52 WHEREAS, Although it is impossible to discern the revenue generated from the  
53 commercial drift fishery exclusively because many vessels participate in multiple  
54 fisheries, the Homer Port and Harbor enterprise fund received combined revenues of  
55 \$849,742 in 2013 from these fishing vessels, tenders, and processors; and

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57 WHEREAS, Adopting the proposed changes to Area 1 of the Cook Inlet Commercial  
58 Drift Fishing District will have a negative economic impact to Homer's Port and Harbor  
59 Enterprise in fish processing tax, wharfage, Fish Dock ice sales and crane usage, moorage and  
60 uplands leases, and gear storage; and

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62 WHEREAS, Proposals to close or restrict commercial drift fishing in Area 1  
63 disproportionately affects the economic health of one community.

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65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council strongly opposes  
66 Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals 138, 139, 140, 142, and 143 that restrict or close  
67 commercial drift fishing in Area 1.

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69 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January,  
70 2014.

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CITY OF HOMER

  
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MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

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78 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
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JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK  
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84 Fiscal Note: N/A  
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