

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

*no action
taken*

RESOLUTION 87-88

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING FEDERAL LIMITED ENTRY IN HALIBUT, SABLEFISH, GROUND FISH OR ANY OTHER FISHERIES.

WHEREAS, the Homer City Council has an approved Coastal Management Plan which provides a system for State and Federal agencies to consider input from the City of Homer on matters of Coastal Zone Management; and

WHEREAS, the North Pacific Management Council, NPFMC, seems to be determined to manage the halibut, sablefish and other fisheries through federal limited entry in the form of license limitation or quota shares; and

WHEREAS, the intent of a license limitation program would be to eliminate a large percentage of the participants beginning with the most recent entrants, which would affect many Homer fishermen, and

WHEREAS, a limited access system would concentrate the increasing wealth of our fisheries into fewer and fewer hands, creating great inequities of opportunity in our fishing community and virtually eliminating the possibility for young people from the Homer community from entering the fishery; and

WHEREAS, coastal communities, specifically Homer and the surrounding areas, need open access to and competition in the fisheries, leading to the fairest allocation, and

WHEREAS, the restriction, retardation or exclusion of fishermen to develop resources that abound in the vicinity would have an adverse economic effect on this community which has seen a substantial reduction in fisheries from time to time; and

WHEREAS, a limited access system greatly hinders diversification, which is an economic necessity for survival of independent fishermen, and

WHEREAS, the decline of crab stocks and rise of the importance of other fisheries in our community demonstrates the need for diversification and open access to fisheries, and

WHEREAS, more processors also benefit from open access to fisheries for the local fleet because they are able to buy a bigger share of the fish and

WHEREAS, the trend of federal management as evidenced by federal government policy statements is moving away from supporting small independent businesses, and

WHEREAS, federal government intervention in farming, timber and mining has led to the demise of the small independent operator and the removal of industry from small communities, and

WHEREAS, federal limited entry will change capitalization in fishing

from buying real assets, usable in other fisheries to artificial investments such as shares or permits, which will greatly inhibit the ability of the small business fisherman to compete; and

WHEREAS, the results of the North Pacific Fishery Coalition Survey conducted in September 1987 which received input from 333 fishermen indicated that most did not think there was sufficient time to study the direct and indirect socio-economic impacts of limited entry before the 1988 season and two thirds of the respondents thought in-depth studies that analyze limited entry should be completed before making any decisions, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska fisheries industry is one of the the two largest private sector employers in the State, and as such, too vital to the people and the economy to risk all the inherent dangers and inequities of such an irreversible, unnecessary management plan as a limited entry; and

WHEREAS, the entire economy of Alaska coastal communities such as Homer is small businesses dependantly interfacing with the fisheries industry and providing economic and logistic support to the independent fisherman; and

WHEREAS, the idea of permanently turning over the ownership of our public resource to a few private hands totally contradicts the principle of free enterprise and is contrary to the fundamentals upon which our country is founded;

WHEREAS, the halibut, sablefish, and groundfish resources are currently in a healthy and stable condition, and are therefore capable of providing significant economic benefit to Alaska coastal communities, and

WHEREAS, in the halibut, sablefish and groundfish resources are currently in a healthy and stable condition, and are therefore capable of providing significant economic benefit to Alaska coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, in the halibut, sablefish, groundfish fisheries traditional conservation methods have proven effective in protecting the fisheries resource, without the need for limited access; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of federal limited entry will remove the influence of the State of Alaska, coastal communities, and local fishermen in decisions regarding the management of halibut, sablefish, and groundfish resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Homer City Council is opposed to any form of federal limited entry in the halibut, sablefish, groundfish or any other fisheries without careful in-depth study of the direct and indirect economic impacts on Alaskan coastal communities to determine the scope of this type of legislation on the entire fishing fleet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Homer City Council support study of other management options before any final decision is made to implement limited entry:

This resolution shall be communicated to the following people:

President Ronald Reagan

James C. Miller III, Director OMB
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank H. Murkowski
Representative Donald E. Young
Governor Steve Cowper
NOrth Pacific Fisheries Management Council Chairman J. Campbell
Alaska Legislature
Secretary of Commerce C. William Varity
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Passed and approved by the Homer City Council this day of December 1987.

CITY OF HOMER

John P. Calhoun, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary L. Shannon, Deputy City Clerk