

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Shadle/Economic Development
Advisory Commission

RESOLUTION 08-76

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE POLITICALIZATION OF FISHERIES RESOURCE ALLOCATION, REQUESTING THE COOK INLET SALMON TASK FORCE HOLD HEARINGS IN HOMER, AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE TASK FORCE RELY PRIMARILY ON THE EXPERTISE OF THE BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA FISH AND GAME PERSONNEL IN ADDRESSING ALLOCATION ISSUES.

WHEREAS, The Alaska Legislature created a Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force composed of 10 legislators charged with developing "specific proposals to address conservation issues in the Northern District" among other goals; and

WHEREAS, The bill forming the task force makes repeated references to "failures" on the part of the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, It is also apparent from discussion preceding passage of the bill that supporters see the task force as a mechanism to reduce the allocation of Cook Inlet salmon to commercial fishermen and increase it for in-river sport and personal use fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Commercial fishers, processors, and support industries are an important component to the Homer and Kenai Peninsula economies; and

WHEREAS, Entry to commercial fisheries for the commercial use of the salmon resource was instituted in 1974 with the Limited Entry Program, and approved by the voters as an amendment to the state constitution, and that the commercial use of the resource should be limited to those permit holders; and

WHEREAS, The commercial salmon harvesters are an important management tool to fisheries managers; and

WHEREAS, Both sport and commercial fishing are extremely important to the Homer economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council expresses its grave concern over the apparent politicalization of fisheries resource allocation demonstrated by the formation of the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer City Council request the Task Force to hold hearings in Homer after the salmon season to allow input from affected stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook Inlet Salmon Task force is advised to see the wisdom in utilizing existing mechanisms—particularly the Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game—to study and make recommendations on fisheries allocation issues rather than responding to political pressure from special interest groups to circumvent these mechanisms.

 PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL this 23 day of June, 2008.

CITY OF HOMER


JAMES C, HORNADAY, MAYOR

ATTEST:


JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Impact: None.

