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2-24-2020*

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Evensen

RESOLUTION 20-021

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL URGING THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF FISHERIES TO STRONGLY SUPPORT THE ALASKA SALMON HATCHERY PROGRAM OWING TO THE MULTITUDE OF BENEFITS IT PROVIDES

WHEREAS, Citizens of the City of Homer and surrounding areas benefit greatly from the State of Alaska Salmon Hatchery Program (ASHP), which has operated for 45 years with tremendous success and a proven track record of environmental cognizance in supplementing wild salmon harvests throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, ASHP is a success story for sustainable economic development (which directly benefits subsistence fishermen, personal use fishermen, sport fishermen, charter fishermen, commercial fishermen, seafood processors, and state and local governments by way of tourism and Raw Fish Tax dollars); and

WHEREAS, Alaska hatcheries are established and operating well, contributing an average of 67 million fish annually to Alaska's commercial salmon fisheries throughout the past decade; and

WHEREAS, ASHP utilizes scientific methodology built upon precautionary principles and sustainable fisheries policies that have been instituted to chiefly protect wild salmon populations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulates hatchery operations, production, and permitting through a transparent and public process, including co-development among stakeholders for its annual management plan; and

WHEREAS, For the Year 2018 alone a report by the McDowell Group identified the economic contribution of Alaska's salmon hatcheries to be 4,700 jobs, \$218 million in labor income, and \$600 million in total economic output; and

WHEREAS, In 2018 Alaska hatcheries accounted for 34% of the total commercial salmon harvest statewide, including 59% of total ex-vessel value for Southeast, 75% of total ex-vessel value for Prince William Sound, 9% of total ex-vessel value for Cook Inlet, and 25% of total ex-vessel value for Kodiak; and

42 WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program has proven to be vital to Alaska's
43 seafood and sportfish industries and the State of Alaska by creating employment and
44 economic opportunities statewide and in particular within rural coastal communities –
45 including the locally cherished China Poot River sockeye salmon dipnet fishery in Kachemak
46 Bay; and

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48 WHEREAS, Activity of Alaska salmon fisheries, including the hatchery program,
49 continues to be certified with high measures of *sustainability* by two separate groups of
50 evaluation, the Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) and the Marine Stewardship
51 Council (MSC); and

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53 WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is non-profit and self-funded through
54 cost recovery and enhancement taxes on the resource itself; ASHP is a model partnership
55 between private and public entities that is based deeply in environmental awareness, ethic;
56 and

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58 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has invested significantly in Alaska's salmon hatchery
59 program and associated research to provide for stable salmon harvests and to bolster the
60 economies of coastal communities – including the extensive Paint River fish ladder located
61 proximal to Homer in Kamishak Bay; and

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63 WHEREAS, Curricular strengths of the University of Alaska System include aquaculture
64 in both classroom and field; these well-recognized and somewhat unique educational
65 programs help to competitively differentiate and distinguish Alaskan students in the
66 worldwide market; and

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68 WHEREAS, Continuation of Alaska salmon fisheries, including the hatchery programs,
69 is in the interest of the citizens of Homer and the numerous stakeholders surrounding these
70 world-class marine-, river- and lake-based resources.

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72 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council affirms its strong
73 support for Alaska's salmon hatchery programs.

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75 FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council supports scientific and
76 unbiased methods to assess the interaction of Alaska's salmon hatchery programs with
77 natural salmon stocks, such as the Alaska Hatchery-Wild Salmon Interaction Study which
78 began in 2011 and continues presently.

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80 FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council calls on the Alaska Board of
81 Fisheries to work dutifully with the hatchery community, the Alaska Department of Fish and
82 Game, and representatives from the commercial fishing industry to further its understanding
83 of the importance of the Alaska salmon hatchery program for all Alaskans.

84 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this ___ day of _____, 2020.

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CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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92 ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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98 Fiscal note: N/A