

1 **CITY OF HOMER**  
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 Evensen/Hansen-Cavasos/Mayor

4 **Resolution 20-134**  
5

6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA  
7 SUPPORTING REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATIONS AND  
8 STRONGLY OPPOSING PROPOSED CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT  
9 PLAN OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK AND STATE WILDERNESS  
10 PARK THAT WOULD DISPROPORTIONATELY AND NEGATIVELY  
11 IMPACT THE HOMER COMMUNITY  
12

13 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska Division of Natural Resources (DNR) recently proposed  
14 management plan with intent-to-adopt, which includes effective elimination of the “Fishery  
15 Enhancement – Hatcheries” category with respect to Kachemak Bay State Park (Park) and its  
16 Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, Built by the State of Alaska, the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery (TBLH) is a  
19 regular component within the Park and nearly as old as the Kachemak Bay State Park (1970)  
20 itself; and it is currently operated by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) and has been  
21 serving the greater Homer community continuously since 1978; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, CIAA is a private, non-profit, regional aquaculture corporation that works  
24 with regional stakeholders to engage in salmon fisheries enhancement and habitat work  
25 throughout the Cook Inlet region for the benefit of commercial, subsistence, sport, and  
26 personal use fishing; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, CIAA activities bolster salmon throughout their entire lifecycle and the  
29 nutrients that they provide uniquely support land-based ecosystems; and this marine-to-land  
30 transference of biomass is rare biologically and critical to inland wildlife populations near  
31 Homer; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, One distinguishing feature of Alaskan aquaculture is that fisheries  
34 enhancement is designed to provide salmon harvest opportunities while maintaining the  
35 sustainability of wild salmon through science-based programs; and this concept and  
36 terminology should not be confused with environmentally offensive “fish farming” – a  
37 controversial, offshore practice that remains illegal in the State of Alaska; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, Citizens of Homer and visitors to Kachemak Bay directly benefit from CIAA  
40 activities from at least the following run fisheries:  
41

- 42 • Sockeye salmon providing sport, personal use, and commercial fishing harvest at  
43 China Poot River and waterfall, Kachemak Bay

- 44 • Sockeye salmon released at Hazel Lake, returning to Kachemak Bay for sport and  
45 commercial fishing harvest
- 46 • Pink salmon providing sport, personal use, and commercial fishing harvest at Port  
47 Graham Bay, Kachemak Bay
- 48 • Pink salmon providing sport and commercial fishing harvest at Tutka Bay, Kachemak  
49 Bay
- 50 • Coho salmon providing sport, and personal use fishing harvest throughout Kachemak  
51 Bay (CIAA-initiated Caribou Lake stock)
- 52 • Monitoring natural salmon colonization at Paint River (via CIAA-built fish ladder),  
53 Kamishak Bay, Cook Inlet, with the goal of opening up common property fishing there
- 54 • Sockeye salmon providing sport and commercial fishing harvest at Kirschner River,  
55 near Bruin Bay, Kamishak Bay
- 56 • Monitoring stations (modern fish weirs) for natural sockeye salmon runs at Delight  
57 River and Desire River, Nuka Bay (near Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park)

58  
59 WHEREAS, A corollary to local benefited fisheries, the largest sector of tourism in and  
60 around Homer involves sport fishing; and these visitors also represent the largest user group  
61 (volumetrically) of the Homer Harbor and its facilities; and

62  
63 WHEREAS, Citizens of Homer reap economic benefits from CIAA activities associated  
64 with TBLH, including support of Homer-based marine trades and businesses, fish processing  
65 jobs, State and City fish processing tax (landing tax), and related industry jobs that support  
66 both sport fishing and commercial fishing fleets in Homer; and

67  
68 WHEREAS, Common property harvest at TBLH fills a strategic gap in the mid-season  
69 timing of the Commercial Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery and some years the “Tutka Run”  
70 has represented the most substantial harvests; and TBLH also represents crucial operations  
71 for CIAA that allow salmon enhancement and monitoring regionally throughout Kachemak  
72 Bay and Lower Cook Inlet; and

73  
74 WHEREAS, Within the Park the majority of seasonal traffic directed at Tutka Bay and  
75 Tutka Bay Lagoon is due to sport fishing supplied by TBLH; and heavy Park usage directed at  
76 the China Poot Dip Net Fishery also relates to TBLH and CIAA; and

77  
78 WHEREAS, Proposed changes to the management plan for Kachemak Bay State Park  
79 and cessation of the TBLH would harm the largest usage of the Park, diversity of users within  
80 the Park, and current and historic economies of the Homer community; and furthermore it  
81 would severely or permanently limit salmon deliveries to the Homer Dock, encumber fish-  
82 processing and fish-transporting businesses, potentially eliminate related business niches,  
83 commercial and sport fishing operations based from Homer, families that rely on personal  
84 use fishing for subsistence, regional tourism in a widespread manner, and – generally – the  
85 citizens of Homer; and

86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127

WHEREAS, In summary, implementation of plans proposed by DNR would unfairly and disproportionately affect the livelihoods of citizens and the economy of one community, Homer; and

WHEREAS, Continued support and operation at TBLH as a Park-compatible asset is in the interest of the citizens of Homer and the numerous stakeholders surrounding Homer’s regional world-class marine-, river- and lake-based resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council affirms its general support for regional aquaculture associations and their programs, and for CIAA in particular.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer City Council supports scientific and unbiased methods to assess the interaction of aquaculture programs with marine ecosystems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer City Council is strongly opposed to proposed changes in the Kachemak Bay State Park Management Plan that would encumber, restrict, or terminate continued operations of this long-standing Hatchery (TBLH) due to widespread economic and historic/cultural benefits for the greater Homer community and owing to its clear compatibility within Kachemak Bay State Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer City Council is strongly opposed to proposed changes that could specifically cause economic hardship for Lower Cook Inlet commercial fishermen, Homer-based marine trades and businesses, wharfage, crane and ice sales at the city Fish Dock, fish processing jobs, State and City fish processing tax (landing tax), and related industry jobs that support our commercial fishing fleet in Homer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer City Council calls on the Division of Natural Resources to work dutifully with the regional aquaculture associations, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Board of Fisheries, commercial fishermen, and marine scientific organizations to further its understanding of the importance of Alaskan aquaculture programs for all Alaskans and our visitors to Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

CITY OF HOMER

\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

128 ATTEST:

129

130

131 \_\_\_\_\_

132 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

133

134 Fiscal Note: N/A

135