CITY OF KODIAK RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019–19

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KODIAK IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME'S TRADITIONAL AND HISTORIC MANAGEMENT OF THE KODIAK SALMON FISHERY, AND MAINTAINING THE LOCATION OF THE JANUARY 2020 BOARD OF FISH MEETING IN KODIAK

WHEREAS, the Kodiak commercial salmon fishery was one of the first salmon fisheries developed in the State of Alaska and has continuously operated on the Alaska Mainland and the West Side of Kodiak Island since before 1900; and

WHEREAS, Kodiak's commercial salmon fishermen and virtually all residents of Kodiak City, Kodiak Island Borough as well as the residents of Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Larsen Bay, Karluk, Akhiok, Old Harbor are economically and culturally dependent on Kodiak commercial salmon fishery; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kodiak, Kodiak Island Borough and Kodiak's six Alutiiq rural communities are economically struggling due, in part to dramatically reduced groundfish quotas and substantially lower ex-vessel prices as well as impacts from the State of Alaska's budget crisis; and

WHEREAS, Kodiak's commercial salmon fishery has remained essentially the same fishery since the implementation of limited entry in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Kodiak's commercial salmon fishery has shared the burden of conservation for Cook Inlet salmon stocks since 1989; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, acting through its agents on the Board of Fisheries and in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is constitutionally responsible for the sustainability of salmon fisheries for the common use of all people, and to manage these fisheries with the sustained yield principle without creating any exclusive right or special privilege and based on the historical scope and practices of the fishery; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for residents of Kodiak to continue to have full harvest opportunities throughout the Kodiak Management Area based on local salmon stock availability and to continue engagement in Kodiak's historical commercial salmon harvest; and

WHEREAS, testimony before the Alaska Board of Fisheries is important for both the Alaska Board of Fisheries as well as for the residents of Kodiak and Kodiak's Alutiiq communities because community residents are among those most heavily impacted by fisheries decision, and yet only have the opportunity to speak with and be heard by those constitutionally mandated to represent them and to consider their livelihoods when making allocative decisions every three years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kodiak, Alaska, herby requests the Alaska Board of Fisheries to support and maintain the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's traditional and historic management of Kodiak's salmon fisheries, which align with Alaska's Constitutional mandates of management within the sustained yield principle for the common use of all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kodiak, Alaska, hereby requests the Alaska Board of Fisheries to keep the January 2020 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in Kodiak to provide residents and Kodiak's remote Alutiiq communities reasonable opportunity to testify before the Board of Fisheries.

CITY OF KODIAK

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Adopted: October 10, 2019