

Southeast Conference

Resolution 16-09

SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND THE FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON THE US/CANADA SALMON COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Southeast Conference is the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), and the Economic Development District (EDD) for Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the Conference is responsible for maintaining a regional development strategy for capacity building, economic and community development, and resource conservation and development in Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the Conference is dedicated to supporting the marine trades businesses throughout the region and many of these businesses are directly dependent on the harvest of salmon occurring throughout the region, and

WHEREAS, the recreational, commercial and subsistence fisheries of Southeast Alaska are critically important to the economic and personal well-being of our citizens and our communities, and

WHEREAS, The management of Southeastern Alaskan Chinook, Pink, Coho, and Sockeye fisheries, and the allowable salmon harvest and corresponding economic benefit or loss to the region, is dependent upon fishing regimes conducted by agreement with Canada, the States of Washington and Oregon and the Pacific Northwest Tribes under the Annexes of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and

WHEREAS, The terms of the current Treaty Annexes are being renegotiated for a ten year period beginning in 2019 and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Southeast Alaska recreational, commercial and subsistence fishery representatives serving on the Pacific Salmon Commission Panels are now working to develop the terms of the next ten year agreement in order to:

- Restore the harvest opportunities that were lost in the 2009 Annex Agreements and protect the seine, gillnet, troll, subsistence and recreational fisheries from further loss and disruption, especially because the salmon stocks being harvested are being managed sustainably, and
- Restore and continue commitments of financial support from the Federal Governments of the United States and Canada and the State of Alaska to the programs that support accurate and reliable data for management of the fisheries, assist with enhancement programs, and share the cost of managing the fisheries to meet the Treaty commitments, and
- Resolve current deficiencies in the performance of the Pacific Salmon Commission Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) to eliminate the erratic and unreliable estimates of Chinook salmon abundance that cause difficulty setting bag limits and marketing the guided recreational fishery and undermines the ability of the processing sector to maximize the value of the commercial harvest, and
- Secure greater access by Alaska fisheries to hatchery stocks produced by Federally-funded programs for the express purpose of mitigating lost harvest opportunities that were the result of diminished salmon populations that were the initial result of hydropower projects on the Columbia River, and
- Work with the US Section of the Salmon Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Department of State to assure fair treatment of the Alaska fisheries within the Commission process to prevent abuses in the application of the Endangered Species Act and to recognize the dependence of the rural Alaska communities upon the fisheries.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The Southeast Conference Board of Directors strongly supports continued dedication and allocation of State and Federal resources to develop the scientific, legal and political justifications to allow the State of Alaska the tools for successful treaty negotiations which will protect and sustain the fisheries of southeast Alaska and maintain their economic benefits to the region.

ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ON MARCH 29, 2016 AND IS DUE TO SUNSET ON MARCH 30, 2017.

Witness by:

Attest:



Garry White
President



Shelly Wright
Executive Director