



“Resolution on the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit”

WHEREAS commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska’s economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

WHEREAS the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska with 44% of the fishing income to trollers being derived from their Chinook catch; and

WHEREAS commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

WHEREAS including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the whole of Southeast annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

WHEREAS the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Southeast troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and,

WHEREAS the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast Fisheries; and

WHEREAS the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

Therefore, be it resolved that Southeast Conference urges in the strongest possible terms that:

NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and,

NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska’s fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and

All necessary and available state, federal and private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors through all possible appeals; and

Therefore, be it further resolved, that:

Southeast Conference encourages the State of Alaska to work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

Adopted by the Southeast Conference on

Witness by:

Attest:

Lacey Simpson
President

Robert Venables
Executive Director