



Membership Resolution FY15-01

A resolution of the SWAMC Membership urging Congressional action to permanently exempt vessels less than 79 feet and all fishing vessels from EPA permits for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Vessel General Permit (sVGP) for owners and operators of non-military, non-recreational, commercial vessels less than 79 feet in length were delayed for three years in December 2014 as part of Coast Guard Reauthorization legislation; and

WHEREAS, implementation of this permit requirement is unnecessary and privately owned pleasure boats are already permanently exempted from this onerous permitting requirement; and

WHEREAS, permanently exempting fishing, fish processing, and fish tender vessels regardless of size, and commercial vessels less than 79 feet in length from incidental discharge permitting will not significantly contribute to pollution of our inshore or coastal waters, nor contribute to decline of fish stocks; and

WHEREAS, there is bi-partisan support for a permanent exemption for obtaining an NPDES permit for fishing boats and smaller commercial vessel discharges during normal operations such as deck washing; and

WHEREAS, S. 2094, the "Vessel Incidental Discharge Act" which contains a permanent exemption from NPDES discharge permits for all commercial fishing vessels regardless of size, and for commercial vessels less than 79 feet, was approved by the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee in the previous Congress; and,

WHEREAS, H.R.4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, which permanently exempts vessels less than 79 feet in length or fishing vessels from EPA NPDES permits for any discharge incidental to the normal operation of the vessel, was passed by the U.S. House on April 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, fines associated with NPDES discharge violations can run up to \$25,000 per day and could devastate many of our small family-owned businesses.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the SWAMC Membership urges Congress to act to permanently exempt vessels less than 79 feet and all fishing vessels from NPDES permits for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel.

– MORE –

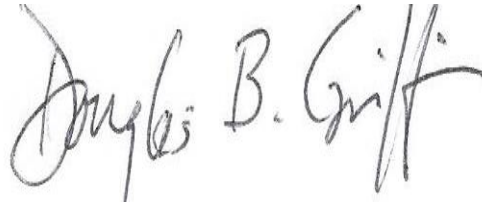
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the SouthWest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership on this 6th day of March.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



Alice Ruby,
SWAMC President



Doug Griffin,
SWAMC Executive Director