



MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY18-01

A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED MANAGEMENT OF THE NATION'S FISHERIES BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE AND HARVEST LIMITATIONS THAT PRIORITIZE THE CONTINUATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF AMERICA'S FISHERIES

WHEREAS, in 1976 the Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which was later referred to as the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), was enacted to conserve and manage America's ocean fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the MSA aimed to eliminate rampant foreign fishing off the coast of the United States of America and promote the domestic fishing industry by extending USA jurisdiction from 12 nautical miles to 200 nautical miles and establishing an Exclusive Economic Zone; and

WHEREAS, MSA also established local control of fisheries management by establishing eight regional fish management councils with representatives from coastal states and fisheries stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the MSA was reauthorized with updates and amendments in 1996 with changes to concentrate even more on conserving sustainable ocean fish populations by reducing bycatch, considering the effect of fisheries management on communities, and protecting fishery habitat; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 President Bush signed another bipartisan reauthorization of the MSA that strengthened fish stock management by requiring regional fish management councils to set science-based annual catch limits to prevent overfishing, supported enforcement of international fishing agreements, protected fish habitats, and considered social and economic needs of states and coastal communities in making management decisions; and

WHEREAS, work has started on a new reauthorization of the MSA in the form of introduction of H.R. 200 by Representative Don Young and a field hearing of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee conducted by Senator Dan Sullivan in Soldotna, Alaska on August 23, 2017; and

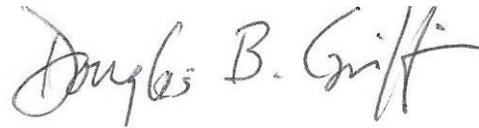
WHEREAS, it is important to strengthen any reauthorization of the MSA with emphasis on science-based management of fisheries to ensure abundance of important commercial and sports fisheries, protection of fishery habitat in response to rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification, robust data collection and analysis to make objective fishery management decisions, and continuation and support of regional fish management councils to provide open and transparent deliberations and decision-making at a regional and community level.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership supports reauthorization of MSA that continues and strengthens science-based fisheries management, protection of fishery habitat, provides significant funding for comprehensive data collection and analysis, and bolsters regional fish management councils to provide for transparent and regional policy formulation and implementation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 2nd day of March 2018.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



Rebecca Skinner, SWAMC President

Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director