



## MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY21-02

### **A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO ADEQUATELY FUND THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (ADF&G) BUDGET AND PARTICULARLY THE DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

**WHEREAS**, subsistence, sport, and commercial harvests of Alaska's fish and game resources are vital to the social, cultural, and economic health of the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the summer salmon season is critical to fishermen, processors, and communities in Southwest Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska seafood industry is the second largest contributor to Alaska's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska seafood industry provides over 60,000 direct jobs and thousands more indirectly, making it the largest private-sector employer in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's commercial seafood industry directly pays over \$250 million annually in taxes and fees which exceeds current State commercial fisheries management spending; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's seafood industry pays business and landing taxes that directly benefit over 65 communities and boroughs in Alaska and reduces community dependence on State funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the seafood industry relies on strong State commercial fishery research and management programs to provide that economic benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commercial Fisheries Division budget has been reduced significantly the past six years; and

**WHEREAS**, the State has joint management agreements with the National Marine Fisheries Service and funding reductions could negatively impact these agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, when the Division of Commercial Fisheries budget is reduced, the seafood industry loses research and resource management programs that are necessary to allow for harvest opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, reduced harvest opportunities in any fishery result in fewer jobs, less income, and decreased tax revenue for the State of Alaska and coastal communities.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership strongly requests the Alaska Legislature and Governor Dunleavy to not impose any further cuts to the ADF&G budget and particularly to the Division of Commercial Fisheries budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that SWAMC urges the Legislature to guarantee that the 2021 summer salmon season will be staffed and fully managed even if the Legislature runs into special Legislative sessions in summer with no budget in place.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 5th day of March 2021.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



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Mary Swain, SWAMC Board President



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Shirley Marquardt, SWAMC Executive Director