

Introduced Wiley, Drathman
Date: 09/02/97
Action: Approved
Vote: 7 Yes, 2 No

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 97-063**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO
CONVENE A SPECIAL SESSION IN SEPTEMBER TO GRANT
ALASKANS THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON A CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT PERMITTING A RURAL SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY**

- WHEREAS,** the Federal Government has threatened to take over management of fishery resources for Alaska on October 1, 1997, if Alaska does not have a plan in place to comply with federal subsistence statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** one of the major issues influencing statehood was the management of our Fish and Game resources; and
- WHEREAS,** federal management before statehood was based upon short term economic gain with little regard for the long term health of the resource; and
- WHEREAS,** conservative state management mandated by the sustained yield clause of Alaska's Constitution has created some of the world's most productive salmon runs while protecting this valuable resource for future generations; and
- WHEREAS,** present federal fishery management plans have no direct limits on fishing mortality and no limit on the number of fishermen; and
- WHEREAS,** federal management of fish stocks for short term economic gain rather than for long term preservation of the resource has resulted in a crisis situation with over half of all federally managed stocks;¹ and
- WHEREAS,** with federal management, there is a good possibility that the limited entry system now used by the state would be changed, resulting in a loss of \$72.9 million to Kenai Peninsula residents holding limited entry permits;² and
- WHEREAS,** a Task Force composed of honored and respected Alaskans, namely Lt. Governor

¹See "New England Groundfish in Crisis - Again," a report of the Massachusetts Offshore Groundfish Task Force.

²Current permit value for Kenai Peninsula residents as reported by Aleja DeVito, KPB Economic Development District

Fran Ulmer, Former Governor Jay Hammond, Senate President Mike Miller, House Speaker Gail Phillips, APFC Executive Director Byron Mallot and former Attorney General Charlie Cole recommended changes in the state constitution as well as federal (ANILCA) and state statutory changes in order to avert a federal take over of our fish and game resources; and

WHEREAS, our state constitution has been amended more than 20 times since its adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly urges the State Legislature to convene a special session to grant the people of Alaska the right to vote on a rural subsistence priority.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution shall be delivered to each member of the Alaska State Legislature and to Governor Tony Knowles.

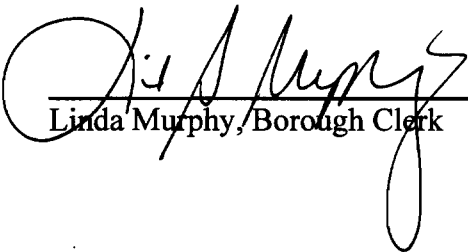
SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.



Jack Brown, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Linda Murphy, Borough Clerk

