

Introduced by: Moss
Date: 11/18/03
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2003-122**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH
RATIONALIZATION PLAN THAT UNLOCKS THE VALUE OF KENAI PENINSULA
BOROUGH RENEWABLE FISHERY RESOURCES, ENSURES COMPETITIVE
PROCESSING MARKETS AND ALLOWS FOR REASONABLE GROWTH FOR
KENAI PENINSULA PORTS, AND PROMOTES CONSERVATION OF FISHERY
RESOURCES**

- WHEREAS,** the combined value of Kenai Peninsula ports (82.1 million dollars) is second only to Dutch Harbor in 2002 for Alaska and the third highest by value in the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the majority of Kenai Peninsula Borough's groundfish fleet are fixed gear vessels (longliners and pot boats) generally run by owner-on-board, independent family fishermen; and
- WHEREAS,** the majority of KPБ's processing businesses are generally small, entrepreneurial enterprises specializing in fresh high-valued products; and the strength of the KPБ's waterfront is the ability to innovate and meet changing market demands and consumer tastes for fishery products; and
- WHEREAS,** a proposal known as the Gulf of Alaska ("GOA") Rationalization Plan is before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council ("NPFMC") to allocate groundfish to boats and fishermen in a manner similar to the halibut and sablefish program; and
- WHEREAS,** certain "processor provisions" and "community protection" measures (closed class of processors, linkages to processors, and regionalized landings), which are stated goals of the GOA Rationalization Plan may advantage non-Kenai Peninsula ports but seriously curtail economic development of the GOA groundfish resources processed on the Kenai Peninsula by requiring that the groundfish be delivered to processors in the area where they have historically been sold; and
- WHEREAS,** the KPБ assembly previously passed Resolution 2002-049 opposing processor quotas; and
- WHEREAS,** fish taxes that support our communities are derived from ex-vessel fish prices, and rationalized fisheries with free markets and open delivery patterns generate the highest value for our fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, rationalized fisheries generally slow down the race for fish, promote safety at sea, allow for more orderly management, and promote conservation benefits such as reduced bycatch and wastage; and

WHEREAS, the KPB supports measures in the GOA Rationalization Plan to include prohibited species caps and/or trawl area closures to provide for the recovery of tanner and king crab, and to reduce the bycatch of Kenai king salmon; and

WHEREAS, the KPB supports measures in the GOA Rationalization Plan to allow voluntary gear conversions so that trawlers would be allowed to fish cod with pots, as this measure could significantly reduce halibut bycatch and reduce adverse affects on marine habitat; and

WHEREAS, the KPB supports adequate fishery observer coverage to ensure that the conservation goals of the program are being met; and

WHEREAS, the KPB supports including hired-skippers in allocations of harvest shares based on their historical participation; and

WHEREAS, the KPB supports maintaining entry level opportunities for new fishermen in any rationalized fishery; and

WHEREAS, the KPB recognizes that the trawl fleet members, the large processors they deliver to and the communities where they operate may have different needs for their region's economic stability;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports options in the Gulf of Alaska Rationalization Plan that increase the value of our fisheries resources; allow open deliveries without processor restrictions for the entire fixed gear catcher fleet; and that provide opportunities for our small processors to purchase high quality groundfish.

SECTION 2. If any regionalized landing requirements are imposed in the Plan, that the Kenai Peninsula be allowed reasonable incremental growth in groundfish landings to provide for economic development into the future.


SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Murkowski, Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski, Congressman Young and the NPFMC.

SECTION 4. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2003.


Pete Sprague, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

