

**Petersburg Borough, Petersburg, AK
Resolution #2017-03**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPROPRIATION OF DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING BY THE
US CONGRESS FOR THE 2016 ALASKA PINK SALMON COMMERCIAL FISHERY FAILURE
IN THE GULF OF ALASKA, INCLUDING PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND, THE KODIAK
MANAGEMENT AREA, THE CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA, THE LOWER COOK INLET
MANAGEMENT AREA, THE YAKUTAT AREA, SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, AND
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) reports a five year average harvest of 49.5 million pink salmon in Southeast Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 pink salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska yielded 18.4 million pink salmon, which represents a 62% loss in numbers of fish and a 74% loss in revenue to the fishermen; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the low harvest of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska are being felt by commercial fishermen, fish processors, businesses that provide fuel, fishing gear and supplies, groceries and lodging, vessel machine and equipment upgrades and repair, as well as local governments who are feeling the impact to their economic base through less taxes collected and lower raw fish tax proceeds; and

WHEREAS, Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to determine if a commercial fishery failure has occurred; and

WHEREAS, at Alaska's Governor Walker's request, and after reviewing the information provided by ADF&G and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Secretary of Commerce Pritzker declared the 2016 pink salmon fishery in Southeast Alaska met the requirements of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster, as she did for the Gulf of Alaska, including Prince William Sound, the Kodiak Management Area, the Chignik Management Area, the Lower Cook Inlet Management Area, the Yakutat Area, and the South Alaska Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Pritzker's disaster declaration provides a basis for the US Congress to appropriate disaster relief funding, and then for the NMFS to provide assistance to the State of Alaska and the affected communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly encourages the US Congress to appropriate disaster relief funding for the 2016 Alaska pink salmon commercial fishery failure in the Gulf of Alaska, including Prince William Sound, the Kodiak Management Area, the Chignik Management Area, the Lower Cook Inlet Management Area, the Yakutat Area, South Alaska Peninsula, and Southeastern Alaska.

Passed and Approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on February 6, 2017.

ATTEST:

Mark Jensen, Mayor

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk