

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION #2020-23**

**A Resolution Requesting the Governor of Alaska Request a Federal Fisheries Resource Disaster Determination due to Historically Low Returns of Salmon Resulting in Economic Harm to the Fisheries Dependent Community of Petersburg Borough**

**WHEREAS**, the Petersburg Borough is substantially dependent on the harvest and processing of fishery resources to meet the social and economic needs of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission data, over three hundred commercial salmon fishery permits are held by residents of Petersburg and over 300 crewmember licenses are issued each year to Petersburg residents; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) data, the 2020 Southeast Alaska pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) harvest, forecasted at an already low 12 million fish, recently concluded with an estimated 5.9 million fish harvested, the lowest harvest level since 1976 and the 5th lowest since statehood; and

**WHEREAS**, 2020 data for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) harvest, indicates a total of 2 million fish harvested, down 53% from the 5-year average; and

**WHEREAS**, 2020 data from the drift gillnet fishery indicates a total harvest of 102,000 sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) since July 1, 2020, down 73% from the 5-year average, and

**WHEREAS**, 2020 data in the troll fishery indicates a total of 718,700 Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) landed since July 1, 2020, down 45% from the 5-year averages, and

**WHEREAS**, the decline in stocks affected access to the resource including unprecedented multi-day fishery closures during the peak of the salmon season; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact from the fisheries resource failure has caused serious economic harm with 2020 ex-vessel values for the SE Alaska purse seine fishery estimated at \$13.8 million or 75% below the five-year average; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact from the fisheries resource failure has caused serious economic harm with 2020 ex-vessel values for the SE Drift Gillnet fishery estimated at \$6.9 million or 71% below the five-year average; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact from the fisheries resource failure has caused serious economic harm with 2020 ex-vessel values for the SE Troll fishery estimated at \$20.6 million or 31% below the five-year average.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Petersburg Borough Assembly hereby requests:**

1. The Governor of Alaska (or other eligible entity) request a commercial fishery disaster determination from the US Secretary of Commerce for salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska.
2. The Alaska Congressional Delegation seek to include financial assistance in the US Department of Commerce FY21 appropriations bill (or another legislative vehicle) for the 2020 Southeast Alaska salmon fishery disaster.

**Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this 2nd day of November 2020.**

**Attest:**

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**Mark Jensen, Mayor**

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**Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk**

Adopted:  
Published:  
Effective: