



Homer City Hall
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Agenda

City Council Special Meeting

Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 3:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers via Webinar

Dial: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or Toll Free 877 853 5247 or 888 788 0099

Webinar ID: 205 093 973 Password: 610853

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA APPROVAL (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. [Resolution](#) 20-127, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Strongly Opposing Alternative 4 in the Public Review Draft Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review for Proposed Amendment XX to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska that would Close all Federal Water in Cook Inlet to Commercial Salmon Fishing and Finding that Implementation of Alternative 4 would have a Significant Adverse Impact on the Economy of Homer. Mayor/City Council.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 Mayor/City Council

4 **RESOLUTION 20-127**

5
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
7 STRONGLY OPPOSING ALTERNATIVE 4 IN THE PUBLIC REVIEW
8 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/REGULATORY IMPACT
9 REVIEW FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT XX TO THE FISHERY
10 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SALMON FISHERIES IN THE EEZ OFF
11 ALASKA THAT WOULD CLOSE ALL FEDERAL WATERS IN COOK
12 INLET TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING AND FINDING THAT
13 IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE 4 WOULD HAVE A
14 SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY OF HOMER
15

16 WHEREAS, The North Pacific Fishery Management Council developed the *Fishery*
17 *Management Plan for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska*, (FMP) that manages salmon
18 fisheries in the United State Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3 nautical miles to 200 nautical
19 miles off shore of Alaska); and
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21 WHEREAS, Pursuant to a United States Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit ruling, after
22 successful litigation brought by Cook Inlet commercial fishermen and seafood processors, the
23 North Pacific Fishery Management Council must amend the FMP to bring it in line with the Ninth
24 Circuit Court’s decision; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Through its Public Review Draft Environmental Assessment/Regulatory
27 Impact Review for Proposed Amendment XX to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon
28 Fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering
29 four alternative amendments to the FMP:
30

31 Alternative 1 is status quo or no action, deferring management to the State of Alaska by
32 excluding the traditional net fishing area in the Cook Inlet EEZ from the FMP (the Ninth
33 Circuit Court ruling makes this alternative “untenable” according to the authors’ of the
34 Public Review Draft EA/RIR for Proposed Alternative XX to the Fishery Management Plan
35 for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska);
36

37 Alternative 2 would establish federal management of the commercial salmon fishery in
38 Cook Inlet with management of the commercial fishery delegated to the State of Alaska
39 in accordance with the Magnuson Stevens Act and other applicable federal law;
40

41 Alternative 3 would establish Federal management of the commercial salmon fishery
42 in Cook Inlet with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and national Marine
43 Fisheries Service without delegation of management to the State of Alaska; and
44

45 Alternative 4 would establish Federal management of the commercial salmon fishery in the
46 Cook Inlet EEZ with the EEZ closed to commercial fishing; and
47

48 WHEREAS, The waters of the Cook Inlet commercial salmon drift gillnet fishery included
49 by the EEZ are the closest fishing grounds to Homer and have been part of traditional fishing
50 grounds since statehood; and
51

52 WHEREAS, In 2014 the Homer City Council voiced opposition to restrictions on the Cook
53 Inlet Fishing District 1 (Resolution 14-019(A)), which is roughly equivalent to the area of the
54 EEZ, citing widespread and deleterious effects to local and regional economies; and
55

56 WHEREAS, The Homer City Council has consistently advocated for science-based
57 fisheries management decisions that are equitable across fishery users and sustainable for
58 continued human benefit into the future; and
59

60 WHEREAS, Alternative 4 was proposed by the State of Alaska Department of Fish and
61 Game Deputy Commissioner at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's October 12,
62 2020 meeting after closure of public comment; and
63

64 WHEREAS, Alternative 4 is not a science-based alternative to fishery management, does
65 not result in equitable or sustainable distribution of the salmon harvest resource, was
66 introduced after public comment which is counter to the intent of the National Environmental
67 Policy Act, and does not adequately address the Ninth Circuit court ruling; and
68

69 WHEREAS, If Alternative 4 were adopted by the North Pacific Fishery Management
70 Council, it would close the area of fishing where most of the Cook Inlet salmon drift gillnet
71 fishery harvest occurs, effectively eliminating the economic viability of the fishery and viability
72 of local seafood processors; and
73

74 WHEREAS, The loss of the salmon drift gillnet fishery in Cook Inlet would cause severe
75 job loss, loss of capital investment in the fishery and support businesses, and could impact
76 other fisheries if local processing capacity is lost or reduced; and
77

78 WHEREAS, A 2015 report published by the McDowell group titled "The Economic Impact
79 of the Seafood Industry in Southcentral Alaska" reported that the seafood industry in the
80 reporting region directly employs over 10,000 people seasonally and had an economic output
81 of \$1.2 billion; and
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83 WHEREAS, The Homer City Council recognizes that the salmon drift gillnet fleet, like
84 other fisheries users, is a critical component of Homer, positively contributing to the City's
85 local history, culture, and economy; and
86

87 WHEREAS, Section 4.55 of the EA/RIR presents information about fishing communities
88 associated with the Upper Cook Inlet salmon drift gillnet fishery and includes some of the
89 following information regarding the City of Homer:
90

91 Homer has the highest vessel participation of any community with participants in the
92 fishery with an annual average number 2009-2018 of 104.9, average percent of 24.38 of
93 total participants, and 197 unique vessels (Table 4-13);
94

95 Homer-based vessels receive the highest gross revenue from the fishery of communities
96 with participants in the fishery with an annual average revenue 2009-2018 of \$5,505,099
97 and 28.6 percent of total revenue (Table 4-14);
98

99 Homer has the highest permit participation in the fishery of communities participating
100 in the fishery with an annual average number 2009-2018 of 107.1, average percent of
101 23.55 of total permit holders, and 216 unique permits; and
102

103 WHEREAS, The closure of the fishery as proposed under Alternative 4 would have a
104 significant adverse impact on the economy of Homer through the loss of the livelihoods of
105 Homer based fishermen who participate in the Cook Inlet salmon drift gillnet fishery, marine
106 trades and other businesses based in Homer, and the City of Homer primarily through the loss
107 of harbor fees, ice and crane sales, fish landing tax revenues, and sales tax revenues; and
108

109 WHEREAS, The timeline allowing for public comment on Alternative 4 has been
110 inadequate generally, but particularly because the proposed closure of the fishery under
111 Alternative 4 would disproportionately affect the economic health of the Homer community.
112

113 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby
114 opposes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopting Alternative 4, proposed to
115 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that would close all federal waters in Cook Inlet
116 to commercial salmon fishing.
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118 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, has determined that
119 implementation of Alternative 4 would have a significant adverse impact on the economy of
120 Homer.
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122 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council on this 25th day of November, 2020.
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ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Lewis

RESOLUTION 14-019(A)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
STRONGLY OPPOSING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
PROPOSALS 138, 139, 140, 142, AND 143 THAT CLOSE OR
RESTRICT WATERS OF COOK INLET NEAR HOMER TO
COMMERCIAL DRIFT FISHING.

WHEREAS, The waters of the Cook Inlet Commercial Drift Fishing District Area 1 are the
closest drift fishing grounds to Homer encompassing approximately 600 square miles of Cook
Inlet from Anchor Point north to Kalgin Island; and

WHEREAS, The waters of Area 1 have been part of the traditional fishing grounds of
the Cook Inlet Commercial Drift Fishery since statehood; and

WHEREAS, Area 1 is integral to the Homer fishing economy; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals 138, 139, 140, 142, and 143 close or
restrict commercial drift fishing in Area 1; and

WHEREAS, Closing Area 1 to commercial drift fishing will result a tripling of travel time
for Homer based vessels to reach fishing grounds; and

WHEREAS, Increased travel costs will force the over 100 vessels that represent the
Homer based drift commercial fishing fleet to relocate to communities closer to open fishing
grounds; and

WHEREAS, Businesses in Homer would lose the economic activity associated with
provisioning the fleet in Homer including food, fuel, supplies, gear, and professional marine
trades services; and

WHEREAS, Local jobs in seafood processing, marine trades, and trucking will be
negatively impacted if fish is delivered to another port; and

38 WHEREAS, The Homer Port and Harbor identified 170 accounts comprised of fishing
39 vessels, tenders, and seafood processors participating in the Upper Cook Inlet drift fishery in
40 2013; and

41
42 WHEREAS, Problems with Susitna salmon production have been identified and are the
43 result of freshwater habitat issues; and

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45 WHEREAS, Intensive management of saltwater fisheries will never solve the problems
46 found in the freshwater habitats of spawning and rearing salmon; and

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48 WHEREAS, The Board of Fisheries should eliminate restrictions on Central District drift
49 gillnetting during the July 9 through July 31 time period because it is now known that these
50 restrictions are not an effective method of improving Susitna sockeye production; and

51
52 WHEREAS, Although it is impossible to discern the revenue generated from the
53 commercial drift fishery exclusively because many vessels participate in multiple
54 fisheries, the Homer Port and Harbor enterprise fund received combined revenues of
55 \$849,742 in 2013 from these fishing vessels, tenders, and processors; and

56
57 WHEREAS, Adopting the proposed changes to Area 1 of the Cook Inlet Commercial
58 Drift Fishing District will have a negative economic impact to Homer's Port and Harbor
59 Enterprise in fish processing tax, wharfage, Fish Dock ice sales and crane usage, moorage and
60 uplands leases, and gear storage; and


61
62 WHEREAS, Proposals to close or restrict commercial drift fishing in Area 1
63 disproportionately affects the economic health of one community.


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65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council strongly opposes
66 Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals 138, 139, 140, 142, and 143 that restrict or close
67 commercial drift fishing in Area 1.

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69 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this 13th day of January,
70 2014.

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CITY OF HOMER


MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

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78 ATTEST:
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82 JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK
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84 Fiscal Note: N/A
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