



## SWAMC RESOLUTION 09-06

### A RESOLUTION OF SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE ADDRESSING IMPACTS OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS/RIR/RIFA) ON BERING SEA CHINOOK SALMON BYCATCH MANAGEMENT

**WHEREAS**, The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) has received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/RIR/RIFA) on Bering Sea Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and this document is intended to serve as the central decision making document for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

**WHEREAS**, The proposed action is to amend the federal management plan (FMP) and other federal regulations to establish new measures to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery to the extent practicable while achieving optimum yield in the Pollock fishery; and

**WHEREAS**, The NPFMC is reviewing options to reduce Chinook bycatch such as imposing sector hard caps or other restrictive limits on the amount of Chinook salmon that can be taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery with the end result being a possible shut down of the entire Bering Sea Pollock fishery during A/B fishing seasons; and

**WHEREAS**, More research regarding the origin of Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery as well rivers of origin, should be addressed, and improved research on the overall abundance figures of the Salmon resource in the Bering Sea needs to be better understood before restrictive hard caps or other measures are put in place ; and

**WHEREAS**, The Draft EIS thoroughly analyzes the benefits of the proposed Chinook bycatch hard caps that are designed to provide additional fish for salmon fishermen in Western Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, The Draft EIS is altogether lacking in *any meaningful* analysis of the direct and indirect economic consequences that could cost hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenues for Pollock-dependent communities in Southwest Alaska and the State of Alaska; and

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**WHEREAS**, Support sector businesses in Pollock-dependent communities in the SWAMC region could also be devastated by a restrictive hard cap on Chinook bycatch that could potentially close the Pollock fishery; and

**WHEREAS**, SWAMC supports the responsible development and implementation of reasonable limits on Chinook bycatch, and further supports the Pollock Industry’s efforts to utilize salmon excluder devices in their fishing nets, rolling hot spot closures, inter-cooperative agreements that help reduce bycatch, and penalizing fishermen who have high bycatch levels, in that all of these measures have shown great promise in reducing Chinook bycatch; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the membership of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Council strongly urges the NMFS to expand their analysis of the preferred alternative in the DRAFT EIS to include a full cost benefit analysis of the impacts to **all** areas of western Alaska, including **all** fisheries-dependent communities and CDQ groups, before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council takes final action on the proposed Chinook bycatch amendment.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this Thirtieth day of January, 2009.

Signed:

Attest:



Tom Abell  
President



Michael Catsi  
Executive Director