

RESOLUTION NO. 5061

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED ESCAPEMENT OUT
OF AREA M TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF
CHUM AND CHINOOK SALMON IN THE YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE
AND IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA SENATE BILL 128 VERSION A**

WHEREAS, the average (1997-2022) summer chum salmon run as reported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) at Pilot Station near the mouth of the Yukon River was 1,562,978; and

WHEREAS, the measured totals were 1,612,688 in 2018, 1,402,925 in 2019, 692,602 in 2020, 153,718 in 2021, and 463,806 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the average (1997-2022) chinook salmon run as reported by ADF&G at Pilot Station near the mouth of the Yukon River was 167,993; and

WHEREAS, the measured totals were 161,831 in 2018, 219,624 in 2019, 162,252 in 2020, 124,845 in 2021, and 48,439 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the average (1997-2022) summer chum salmon run as reported by ADF&G at the Chena River was 8,973; and

WHEREAS, the measured totals were 15,244 in 2018, 2,704 in 2019, 155 in 2020, 577 in 2021, and 897 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the average (1997-2022) chinook salmon run as reported by ADF&G at the Chena River was 4,989; and

WHEREAS, the measured totals were 6,100 in 2018, 2,018 in 2019, 502 in 2020, 1,417 in 2021, and 355 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, local numbers of chinook and chum salmon in the Chena River and in other Interior rivers have fallen to very low levels, and the salmon health in the drainage of the Yukon River is of significant recreational, economic, and cultural value to people who live in the Fairbanks area; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Peninsula Management Area M is the main commercial fishery on which the State of Alaska can impose regulations to limit commercial harvest that will increase the escapement of our wild salmon resource into the Yukon River drainage; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries failed to impose new restrictions in the commercial harvest out of Area M at its February 2023 meeting as was suggested in Proposal 140; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Constitution, Article VIII – Natural Resources states that the natural resources of the State should be used “for the maximum benefit of the people” and that “whenever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use” and “fish...shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle...”

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Fairbanks City Council that given the current health of the chum and chinook salmon runs in the Yukon River drainage, the State of Alaska must increase escapement of salmon to the Yukon River in order to comply with Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fairbanks City Council supports the timely passage of Alaska Senate Bill 128 Version A to create a nearly 3-week escapement window in Area M by temporarily halting the commercial harvest from June 10 through June 30, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the sponsors of Senate Bill 128, to Governor Dunleavy, and to the Interior Alaska Legislative Delegation.

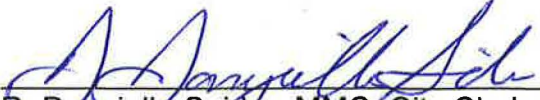
PASSED and APPROVED this 24th Day of April 2023.



David Pruhs, City Mayor

AYES: PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: April 24, 2023

ATTEST:



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

SENATE BILL NO. 128

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS OLSON, Kawasaki

Introduced: 4/12/23

Referred: Judiciary, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act temporarily closing the commercial salmon fishery in a portion of the Alaska
2 Peninsula and Aleutian Islands; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT AREA M
7 TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING. Notwithstanding the authority usually delegated
8 by the legislature to the Board of Fisheries under AS 16.05.251, the area of the Alaska
9 Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas administered by the Board of
10 Fisheries under AS 16.05.251 on December 31, 2022, and identified by the Department of
11 Fish and Game as of January 1, 2023, as Alaska Peninsula Management Area M is closed to
12 commercial salmon fishing from 12:01 a.m. on June 10, 2023, through 11:59 p.m. on June 30,
13 2023.

14 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).