

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Charlie Pierce, Vice President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Brent Johnson, Assembly Member *for BS*

DATE: February 28, 2012

RE: Resolution 2012-015, Supporting Governor Parnell's FY2013 Budget Request of \$1,813,000 for a Kenai River King Salmon Assessment Program

After years of strong Kenai River late-run king salmon returns, those stocks have experienced back-to-back seasons of weak returns. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has been actively trying to assess run strength, but their various methods have resulted in conflicting results. ADF&G has now identified a strategy for achieving better results. That strategy involves buying new DIDSON sonar counter equipment and installing it in a location suited for its use. The old Bendix sonar counter has been compromised with other salmon species interfering with the ability to isolate and count king salmon.

ADF&G plans to adapt to the new technology of DIDSON sonar counters. In terms of management it is imperative that they receive funding for a multi-year study to implement their plans. Governor Parnell has recognized this and has included the necessary funding in his budget. Lawmakers may not be convinced however, and it is the intention of this legislation to inform them that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly concurs with the Governor, and with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Your support of this resolution will be appreciated.