

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH


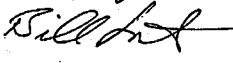
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Charlie Pierce, Vice President

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Mako Haggerty, Assembly Member 
Bill Smith, Assembly 

DATE: May 1, 2012

RE: Resolution 2012-039, Urging the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to Adopt Measures that Reduce the Halibut Prohibited Species Catch in the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fisheries

The groundfish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska can be a very unselective fishery, especially with the trawl gear type. Unfortunately there has been little change in the restrictions of by-catch for the last 20 years. The removal of millions of juvenile halibut by the trawl fishery has had an adverse impact on the recruitment of halibut into our commercial and charter fisheries.

For several years now there has been a growing tension between the commercial halibut fleet and the charter fleet over halibut allocation. Homer and Seward have been in the top ports for halibut landings for years. The charter fleet that operates out of Ninilchik, Homer, Seldovia and Seward are key components to a vibrant summer tourism economy. Both of these fisheries are very important to the economy of the Kenai Peninsula.

This reduction of halibut catch has pitted fleet against fleet, neighbor against neighbor, creating an unworkable relationship with the various user-groups that operate out of our harbors here on the Kenai Peninsula.

This resolution urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take a small step toward ending that tension.

Your consideration is appreciated.