

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2022-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL TO THE NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION IN SUPPORT OF THE EXCLUDING COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FROM THE OBJECTIVES IN THE POTENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEART OF THE OCEAN MARINE SANCTUARY OFF THE COAST OF ST. PAUL ISLAND IN THE BERING SEA

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska, location of the International Port of Dutch Harbor, has for 25 years been the nation's number one commercial fishing port in terms of volume of the catch (700-800 million pounds landed annually), and the number two port in terms of value of landings during the same period (\$200 million ex-vessel value range annually); and

WHEREAS the Bering Sea Pollock fishery is the nation's largest fishery, with annual harvests of more than 3 billion pounds, and is the nation's most valued fishery, with annual ex-vessel value of over \$400 million, and a first wholesale value of \$1.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is the only industry in Unalaska and the onshore and offshore fisheries are of critical importance to Unalaska's harvesters, processors and support sector businesses, which supply the revenue and employment that is the economic engine for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, without knowing the proposed location or the number of square miles that could be included in the proposed marine sanctuary, it is very troubling and of great concern for Unalaska and the commercial fishing industry we depend upon for our economic livelihood; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska is a remote Island community, population 4,200, located in the middle of the Aleutian Islands, 800 miles west of Anchorage and not connected to the road system; all travel off Island by is by air or sea; and

WHEREAS, it is of critical importance to Unalaska and to other fishery dependent communities in the Bering Sea region that establishment of a marine sanctuary be fully vetted by the rules and procedures under the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA); and

WHEREAS, the MSA based management process allows stakeholder input through hearings and deliberations by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which works in concert with the State of Alaska, with guidance and expertise from National Marine Fisheries Service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska requests NOAA's support in excluding commercial fisheries management from the outlined objectives of any marine sanctuary management plan should it advance to a proposed or final designation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council does not support the formation of the Heart of the Ocean Marine Sanctuary off the coast of St. Paul Island unless it excludes commercial fisheries management from the outlined objectives of any marine sanctuary management plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on October 25, 2022.

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk