

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2011-01

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING MUNICIPAL RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF SPORT FISHING AND THE STATE'S HATCHERY PROGRAM TO THE ANCHORAGE ECONOMY.

(WNRC Case No. 11-01)

WHEREAS, the Municipality is home to numerous streams that support healthy runs of five salmon species, as well as many lakes and waterbodies, which support resident fish species; and

WHEREAS, many of these streams and lakes in the Municipality support active sport fishing for both residents and non-residents; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has long recognized the importance and value of its anadromous streams and sport fish lakes, estimated at over \$13 million annually according to a 2004 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) report, with indications of similar values since then; and

WHEREAS, the ADFG, Sport Fish Division, houses its largest fish hatchery on Ship Creek in Anchorage and maintains an active fish release program with these hatchery fish in many Anchorage streams and lakes; and

WHEREAS, the State's hatchery fish release and stocking program incorporates strict measures to insure the genetic and health conditions of native fish populations; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality also participates in the Pacific Salmon Restoration and Recovery Program to enhance and restore fish habitat in area streams; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality actively supports the popular Ship Creek fishery and has expended funds for bank restoration and to promote angler access; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality recognizes the State's hatchery value as a visitor attraction, which has drawn over 70,000 visitors in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the ADFG has sponsored analyses of the economic effects and benefits of its sport fishery and stocking programs, which consistently show that local streams and lakes generate significant contributions of angler days and monetary benefits to the Anchorage economy; and

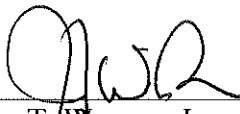
WHEREAS, the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission at its March 2011 regular meeting reviewed the most recent 2004 state publication, entitled *Economic Effect*

of ADFG's Region II & III Recreational Stocking Programs, which presents data showing these economic benefits to the Municipality; and


WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes these benefits and their direct attribution to Anchorage's fish-bearing streams and waterbodies and the advantages of supporting the State's new hatchery and release programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission recommends that the Mayor, the Assembly, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and relevant municipal departments review the State's economic benefits report and consider collaboration with ADFG to optimize the State's new Ship Creek hatchery as a marketing and educational tool for visitors and residents. The Commission offers its services in this endeavor.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on the 27th day of April 2011.



Jerry T. Weaver, Jr.
Secretary



Tamás Deák
Chair

(Case No. 11-01)