

**City of Seldovia
Resolution 18-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
SUPPORTING AN UPDATE TO THE ALASKA STATUTES TITLE 16 HABITAT
PERMITTING LAWS THROUGH HOUSE BILL 199**

WHEREAS, the salmon runs are an intricate and vital part of the Alaskan and Seldovian economy, culture and overall way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution requires that we reserve fish and wildlife for the people for common use and that they are sustainably managed; and

WHEREAS, Seldovia as a whole is a fishing community and the families and community of Seldovia depend greatly on the fishing habitat being preserved for commercial, sports, and subsistence use; and

WHEREAS, the current law directs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to approve any resource extraction proposal near salmon stream unless the plans are, “insufficient for the proper protection of fish and game” and does not define “proper protection of fish and game”; and

WHEREAS, the current law for protecting salmon habitat has not been updated since its inception over half a century ago; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seldovia supports Title 16 be updated to clarify the important habitat characteristics needed to support salmon runs, make sure rivers with salmon receive protection, and give Alaskans a voice in order to protect this vital asset; and

WHEREAS, Seldovia would be best served to have HB199 “rivers, lakes, and streams” to exclude any saltwater lagoon together with the tidal channel connecting it to the ocean where the channel is constrained by bedrock at least one point along their length. [‘Constrained by bedrock’ means that bedrock is limiting erosion on both banks of the channel at or above mean higher high water. For this purpose a saltwater lagoon is defined as a mostly confined water body into which ocean water (salt water) flows during a mean higher high water tide.]

NOW THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the City Council of the City of Seldovia, Alaska; requests updating Alaska’s Fish Habitat Permitting Laws to ensure that the habitats that support wild salmon continue to sustain all of the cultural and economic benefits that Alaskans have benefited from year after year since time immemorial.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia, on this 29 day of February, 2018.

ATTEST:


Heidi Geagel, City Clerk



APPROVED:


Dean Lent, Mayor