

By: Frankie Barker
Introduced: May 2, 2016
Public Hearing: May 16, 2016
Action: Failed

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 16-19**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMEND 17.55.005 GENERAL; ADOPT MSB 17.55.030 RIPARIAN BUFFER STANDARDS TO PROTECT ANADROMOUS FISH, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY IN DESIGNATED STREAMS; AMEND 17.55.040 VIOLATIONS, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES AND AMEND MSB 17.125.010 DEFINITIONS.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) has taken significant actions over the years to protect fisheries and fish habitat in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly created the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsman's Committee which was later renamed the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has successfully advocated for increased resources for the Mat-Su to improve fish habitat and management in Upper Cook Inlet over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, MSB is a founding member of the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership and continues to have a representative on the Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, the Salmon Partnership has awarded nearly \$2 million for more than 70 science, conservation and restoration projects to improve fish habitat in the Mat-Su; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Planning Commission and the Assembly approved an ordinance (OR 13-083) to require all new culverts installed along anadromous streams to be designed and constructed to allow for fish passage; and

WHEREAS, salmon are a highly valued resource in the Mat-Su and throughout the state and need cool, clean water and healthy freshwater habitats in order to thrive; and

WHEREAS, removal of vegetation along stream banks can negatively affect salmon and other aquatic life by increasing pollution entering streams, increasing sedimentation, removing shade and vegetation cover that provides habitat for juvenile fish and increasing water temperatures; and

WHEREAS, riparian buffers, in addition to protecting fish habitat, can prevent bank erosion, reduce flooding impacts, decrease stormwater runoff and protect private property from damage caused by high water events; and

WHEREAS, the specific streams and rivers designated in this ordinance were selected by an interagency team of local, state and federal land managers and scientists in 2013 as high priority water bodies based on their importance for salmon spawning, rearing and overwintering habitat; and

WHEREAS, this action adds to the many positive steps that the Borough has taken to protect fish and fish habitat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission recommends the Borough Assembly amend 17.55.005 General; adopt MSB 17.55.030 Riparian buffer standards to protect anadromous fish, wildlife habitat and water quality in designated streams; amend 17.55.040 Violations, Enforcement and Penalties and amend MSB 17.125.010 Definitions.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this __ day of __, 2016.

JOHN KLAPPERICH, Chair

ATTEST

MARY BRODIGAN, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

FAILED UNANIMOUSLY: Klapperich, Anderson, Healy, Vague, Kendig, Adams, and Rauchenstein