

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
**FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. FWC 21-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION EXPRESSING ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE REPEAL OF THE RECREATONAL RIVERS ACT IN ALASKA SENATE BILL 97 AND HOUSE BILL 120.

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WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission was created in 2007 to represent the interests of the borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has been effective in representing these interests to political leaders, government regulators, and boards of fish and game; and

WHEREAS, a key component in the Commission's advocacy has been effective dialogue with stakeholders interested in the conservation and management of a robust local fishery; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has a vested interest in utilizing science-based standards and forward looking policies to help ensure a balance between the critical fish and wildlife resources of the region with other needs of the population, including responsible resource development; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is home to roughly 15% of the state's population and covers over 25,000 square miles. In addition to encompassing the two major river systems, the Matanuska and the Susitna, the borough also contains a multitude of lakes,

rivers, and streams; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has spent over \$20 million on fish habitat restoration in the borough, replacing more than 100 culverts that have restored 67 streams miles and 6,224 lake acres of anadromous fish habitat; and

WHEREAS, healthy habitat not only supports our fish and wildlife, but ensures clean water for our communities and key economic opportunities for Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission was successful in convincing the Alaska Board of Fisheries at their February 2020 meeting to adopt a number of policies that will enhance returns of salmon to area waters; and

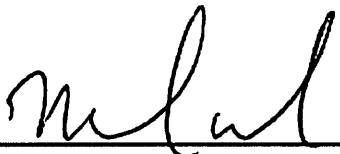
WHEREAS, economic studies in our region in 2007 and 2017 show the significant positive economic impact returning salmon have on the economy of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough approved the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan that had been developed with extensive public input, which was produced under the authority of the 1988 Alaska Recreation Rivers Act; and

WHEREAS, maintaining Alaska's aquatic habitat laws and Matanuska-Susitna Borough regulations and standards can help us avoid the long-term costs of restoration and mitigation, while supporting returning salmon and the economic and cultural benefits they bring to the citizenry of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission recommends that the Matanuska-Susitna Assembly support a resolution opposing the sections in both Senate Bill 97 and House Bill 120 that would repeal the establishment of recreation rivers and recreation river corridors under the Alaska Recreation Rivers Act.

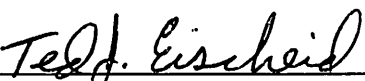
ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2021.



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Mike Wood, Chair

ATTEST:



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TED EISCHEID, Staff

(SEAL)