

CITY OF COFFMAN COVE, ALASKA

RESOLUTION No. 11-18

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MANAGING THE SEA OTTER POPULATION AND FIND WAYS TO REVIVE LOST ECONOMIES DUE TO THE RELOCATION AND RE-COLONIZATION OF SEA OTTERS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

WHEREAS, the City of Coffman Cove, Alaska is a small island fishing community located in Southeast Alaska with a population of approximately 199 citizens; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Coffman Cove community are dependent on abundant, sustainable resources from the coastal waters of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960's the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reintroduced approximately 400 sea otters in six different locations to near shore waters of Southeast Alaska with no management plan; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has jurisdiction under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and has no active management plan protecting the ecosystems affected by sea otters; and

WHEREAS, without proper management, the sea otter population in southern Southeast Alaska is growing at an alarming rate (5,000 observed in 2003 and a 2010 aerial survey by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service revealed an estimate of over 10,000 otters); and

WHEREAS, this drastic increase in sea otters is threatening the population of many shellfish species, such as crab, abalone, urchins, sea cucumbers, geoducks and others, to a point that subsistence, sport and commercial fishing has been stopped in many areas due to the low abundance; and

WHEREAS, a degradation in the ecological balance of a diversity of species has taken place in many areas; and

WHEREAS, residents of Coffman Cove and many other communities throughout Southeast Alaska rely on shellfish not only for their livelihood, but for survival in a subsistence way of life; and

WHEREAS, the loss of commercial harvests have resulted in negative economic impacts to the seafood industry. Fisherman, processors and seafood dependent communities have experienced a loss in employment wages and associated economic activities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Coffman Cove City Council requests that State and Federal agencies work with tribal leaders in Southeast Alaska to become more actively involved in management of the sea otter population and look to remedy the problems already created.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the State and Federal government managing authorities are requested to find ways to revive the lost economies from the Southeast Alaska region due to the relocation and re-colonization of sea otters in southern Southeast Alaska

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 17th day of February, 2011, by the Coffman Cove City Council.

Mayor / Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

A copy of this Resolution is to be sent to our Federal Legislators; the Southeast Alaska State Senators and Representatives; State and Federal Wild Life Agencies; and the Coastal Communities of Southeast.