

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 12/19/2016
Drafted by: A. G. Mead

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2778

A Resolution in Support of Proposed Changes to Alaska Statute Chapters 30.30 and 05.25 Relating to Improving the Management and Prevention of Derelict Vessels.

WHEREAS, hundreds of derelict vessels currently litter Alaska's coastline and harbors;
and

WHEREAS, these numbers will increase every year unless action is taken to address aging fleets and changing commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS, in the past year alone there have been numerous derelict vessel situations that have cost the state, municipalities, and the federal government considerable expense, including incidents involving two ex-Navy tugs in Adak, abandoned barges in Steamboat Slough near Bethel, and the Challenger tug off Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau recognizes the widespread costs and the environmental and navigational risks associated with derelict vessels; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states have dramatically strengthened their laws in the past five years to better prevent, track, and manage derelict vessels, including raising fees to support the management of derelict vessels and requiring vessel insurance; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Alaska legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the need to better understand and address the existing and growing problem of derelict vessels around the state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's current statutory scheme regarding derelict vessels is outdated and lacks the ability to track vessel owners, agency enforcement authority, statewide coordination of response, funding, or vessel insurance requirements; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Alaska Clean Harbors program convened an ad-hoc derelict vessel task force at the urging of the Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, which included representatives from state and federal agencies as well as the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, regional tribal representatives, federal and state legislative offices, and private industry; and

WHEREAS, over the course of nine full-day meetings, the task force developed thoughtful, robust, and meaningful proposed revisions to Alaska Statute Chapters 30.30 and 05.25 designed to help all stakeholders around the state, including harbor facilities, better address and prevent derelict vessels; and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes would better protect harbor infrastructure; keep valuable moorage space in harbors available; and prevent economic, environmental, and navigational hazards; and

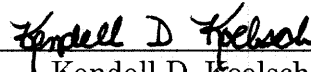
WHEREAS, the proposed changes would improve communication and coordination between Alaska's harbors and state and federal agencies, directly leading to decreased costs associated with managing derelict vessels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau fully supports the passage of all proposed revisions to Alaska Statute Chapters 30.30 and 05.25.

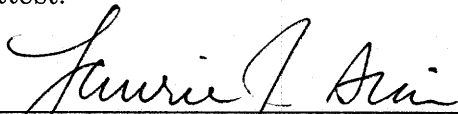
Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 19th day of December, 2016.



Kendell D. Koelsch, Mayor

Attest:


Laurie J. Sica, Municipal Clerk