

Presented by: Hughes-Skandijs  
Presented: 10/26/2020  
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

**Serial No. 2913**

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Declaring an Economic Disaster Due to COVID-19 and Poor Regional Returns of All Salmon Species.**

A. WHEREAS, there are two seafood processing plants in the City and Borough of Juneau; and

B. WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau, the State of Alaska, and the United States had all declared emergencies due to COVID-19 by March 16, 2020; and

C. WHEREAS, numerous federal and state economic programs have been established for business and personal assistance due to impacts of COVID-19; and

D. WHEREAS, in response to substantial financial harm caused by COVID-19, the City and Borough of Juneau has established multiple economic assistance programs sourced from local funds and CARES Act funds including for childcare, rental assistance, businesses, nonprofits, unemployed people, and emergency medical transportation; and

E. WHEREAS, the 2020 Southeast Jobs COVID Impacts Report which outlines the regional change in Southeast Alaska jobs from April to July 2020 included a 50% drop in Transportation jobs; a 38% drop in Leisure and Hospitality jobs; a 27% drop in Seafood Processing jobs; and an 11% drop in Retail jobs, as compared to 2019; and

F. WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska, including Juneau, endured a complete cancellation of the summer cruise season, which resulted in a loss of approximately 1.4 million passengers and an estimated loss of \$220 million dollars to the local economy; and

G. WHEREAS, the economy generated from cruise ship passengers during the short summer months supports the year-round businesses, citizens, and governments in the City and Borough of Juneau; and

H. WHEREAS, in order to contain any potential harm that may be caused by the virus, State and Federal assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this economic emergency; and

I. WHEREAS, the Assembly deems it necessary to declare a local economic disaster to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau; and

J. WHEREAS, though the fishing season has not yet concluded, reports from the commercial fishing fleet indicate an abysmal year for salmon runs in the region, along with significant drop in prices paid to the fishing fleet by processors; and

K. WHEREAS, poor regional salmon returns suggest the fishing season is worse than in 2016 when a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the pink salmon fishery was issued; and

L. WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic impacts will continue for the foreseeable future.

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

**Section 1. Declaration of Local Economic Disaster.** An Economic Disaster is hereby declared in the City and Borough of Juneau due to COVID-19 and poor regional returns of all salmon species.

**Section 2. Request for Economic Disaster Declarations.** The City and Borough requests that the State of Alaska and the United States Secretary of Commerce issue two Economic Disaster Declarations:

1. 2020 Statewide Tourism Disaster resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
2. 2020 Southeast Alaska Salmon Fisheries Disaster resulting from poor returns and harvest of all salmon species.

**Section 3. Request for Economic Assistance.** The City and Borough of Juneau appreciates the CARES Act money and requests that municipalities be allowed to expend any allocated CARES Act funds remaining after December 30, 2020, during 2021 to address this economic disaster. In addition, the City and Borough of Juneau requests additional financial assistance to mitigate the harm of this economic disaster during 2021.


**Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

  
Beth A. Weldon, Mayor