

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 18-041**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING LAWS AND PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS THAT OUTLINE A CLEAR STANDARD SO THAT RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROTECTS OUR FISHERIES AND ENHANCES OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR ECONOMIES.

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 \$8 million on restoration in the borough, replacing culverts and restoring up to 100 miles of streams; 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, 8 out of 14 of the statewide stocks of concern for king and sockeye salmon are in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, taking a proactive approach to updating Alaska's

aquatic habitat laws can help us avoid the long-term costs of restoration and mitigation.

WHEREAS, in January 2017 the Alaska Board of Fisheries made a recommendation to the Legislature to strengthen the Department of Fish and Game's implementation and enforcement of their permitting program, by considering the creation of enforceable standards in statute to protect fish habitat, and to guide and create a more certain permitting system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports laws and permitting requirements that outline a clear standard so that responsible resource development protects our fisheries and enhances our communities and our economies.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this __ day of _____, 2018.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)