

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-65

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL URGING SWIFT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO EXEMPT VESSELS LESS THAN 79 FEET AND ALL FISHING VESSELS FROM EPA PERMITS FOR DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE VESSEL

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Vessel General Permit (sVGP) for owners and operators of non-military, non-recreational, commercial vessels less than 79 feet in length on December 19, 2014 when the current legislative moratorium is set to expire; and

WHEREAS, implementation of this permit requirement is unnecessary; privately owned pleasure boats are already permanently exempted from this onerous permitting requirement with Congress only thus far granting a temporary exemption for commercial vessels; and

WHEREAS, permanently extending the moratorium on discharge permits for fishing, fish processing, and fish tender vessels regardless of size, and commercial vessels less than 79 feet in length will not significantly contribute to pollution of our inshore or coastal waters, nor contribute to decline of fish stocks; and

WHEREAS, there is bi-partisan support for an extension of the current moratorium on NPDES permits for fishing boats and smaller commercial vessel discharges, during normal operations such as deck washing; and

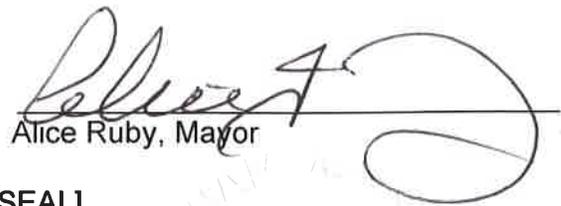
WHEREAS, S. 2094, the "Vessel Incidental Discharge Act" which contains a permanent exemption from NPDES discharge permits for all commercial fishing vessels regardless of size, and for commercial vessels less than 79 feet, was recently approved by the U. S. Senate Commerce Committee; and

WHEREAS, H.R.4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, which permanently exempts vessels less than 79 feet in length or fishing vessels from EPA NPDES permits for any discharge incidental to the normal operation of the vessel , was passed by the U.S. House on April 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, time is growing short until the moratorium expires on December 19, 2014 and the threat of fines associated with the permit, up to \$25,000 per day, could devastate many of our small family-owned businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dillingham City Council urges Congress to act swiftly to permanently exempt vessels less than 79 feet and all fishing vessels from NPDES permits for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on December 4, 2014.


Alice Ruby, Mayor

ATTEST:

[SEAL]


Janice Williams, City Clerk

City of Dillingham Information Memorandum Agenda of: December 6, 2014
 Attachment to:
 Ordinance No. _____ / Resolution No. 2014-65

Subject:

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL URGING SWIFT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO EXEMPT VESSELS LESS THAN 79 FEET AND ALL FISHING VESSELS FROM EPA PERMITS FOR DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE VESSEL

City Manager: Recommend Approval

Signature: Rose Derc

Route to	Department Head	Signature	Date
	Finance Director		
X	City Clerk	<i>Jane Williams</i>	11/20/14

Fiscal Note: Yes No Funds Available: Yes No

Other Attachments:

None

Summary Statement:

This resolution supports the action taken by the SouthWest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors at their November 17, 2014 meeting.

Ordinance No. _____ / Resolution No. 2014-65

Summary Statement continued:

