

City of Sand Point



RESOLUTION 20-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAND POINT URGING NMFS TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER IMPACTS TO LOCAL FISHERMEN AND CITY PROJECTS WHEN DESIGNATING HUMPBACK WHALE CRITICAL HABITAT.

WHEREAS, on October 9th, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a proposed rule (84 FR 54354) to designate critical habitat for three distinct population segments (DPS) of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and

WHEREAS, the proposed humpback whale critical habitat for the Mexico DPS and the Western North Pacific DPS both include all of the navigable waters of the City of Sand Point, and

WHEREAS, a critical habitat designation will require a consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA for any federally connected actions in or near the critical habitat, to ensure said actions are not likely to adversely modify the habitat or threaten the existence of the whales, and

WHEREAS, actions funded or authorized by federal agencies that would be subject to the ESA section 7 consultation include: federal fisheries rulemaking, shipping lanes establishment, in-water construction and oil and gas activities, and

WHEREAS, economic impacts to communities and fishermen from the proposed critical habitat designation are undetermined, but the time period to submit comments on the proposed rule is very short and there are no public hearings scheduled to be held in our coastal communities, and

WHEREAS, the City of Sand Point is largely dependent on raw fish taxes to provide important services and infrastructure, and the City is concerned that this proposed rule could restrict fishing opportunities, inhibit project development and strain our local economy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Sand Point requests NMFS to carefully consider the potential harmful impacts to local fishermen and the City from the proposed humpback whale critical habitat and resulting section 7 consultations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Point requests NMFS work closely with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and establish an ongoing process to engage local stakeholders on section 7 consultations related to the proposed critical habitat.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FOR THE CITY OF SAND POINT ON THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

CITY OF SAND POINT



Glen Gardner Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Shannon Sommer, City Clerk