



**RESOLUTION 2016-02-10**

**A RESOLUTION by the CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED BOARD of DIRECTORS, REGARDING NAVY TRAINING EXERCISES IN THE GULF OF ALASKA.**

**WHEREAS**, CDFU is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, protection and perpetuation of the commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and Area E in the State of Alaska, as such has a responsibility to advocate for healthy fish habitat as the foundation of healthy fisheries.

**WHEREAS**, these trainings will disseminate pollutants into the waters of the Gulf of Alaska by annually releasing up to 352,000 pounds of expended materials including up to 10,000 pounds of hazardous materials including cyanide, chromium, lead, tungsten, nickel, cadmium, barium chromate, chlorides, phosphorus, titanium compounds, lead oxide, potassium perchlorate, lead chromate, ammonium perchlorate, fulminate of mercury, and lead azide into waters designated by NOAA as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for a multitude of species that support the economic development in Alaskan coastal communities and harvest of wild Alaskan salmon for global markets; and

**WHEREAS**, the port of Cordova is often ranked in the top 15 U.S. ports for volume of seafood landed and dollar value of seafood harvests (Fisheries of the U.S., NOAA), illustrating coastal Alaska's reliance on the fish and wildlife resources in the Gulf of Alaska for their livelihoods supported by commercial fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA) vicinity overlays a highly productive region for many marine fish and shellfish populations, which support some of the most productive fisheries in the United States and the scheduled trainings will occur in summer when commercial fisheries are active and many fish populations are migrating and spawning.

**WHEREAS**, CDFU finds Navy consideration of impacts and mitigations to commercially viable fish species with identified EFH in the TMAA inequitable with respect to those species that fall under rehabilitative protection of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and

**WHEREAS**, CDFU finds insufficient scientific information to demonstrate that the training activities can take place in the Gulf of Alaska without negatively affecting herring, salmon, halibut, sablefish, other commercially viable fish species and other marine habitats.

**WHEREAS**, CDFU supports the Navy training and preparedness for national defense, however also desires to ensure the Navy trainings occur at a level and frequency that result in the least amount of harm and damage to the long term productivity and sustainability of our U.S. fishery resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CDFU hereby requests the Navy refrain from using live ordnance or sonar in any Marine Protected Area, including NOAA Fisheries Marine Protected Areas, State Marine Protected Areas and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CDFU requests the Navy move the trainings no less than 10 miles off the continental shelf, outside of essential fish habitat necessary to the sustainability of our rich commercial fishery resources. And further request the Navy moves these exercises to a different date so as not to impact migrating salmon and other commercially viable fish species.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** during the Cordova District Fishermen United Regular Board of Director's meeting 10 February 2016 by vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors.

Authorized by:

  
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CDFU President  
Jerry McCune