

RESOLUTION NO. 661-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND IN SUPPORT OF THE RECREATIONAL FISHING INDUSTRY AS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND, THE CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND, AND JEFFERSON AND CLALLAM COUNTIES.

WHEREAS, the Port of Port Townsend acknowledges that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife currently sets halibut seasons using poundage quotas set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission and approved by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and;

WHEREAS, the halibut fishing season has dwindled from a seventy day season in 2006, to twelve days in 2014, eleven days in 2015, eight days in 2016 and now only three non-consecutive days in 2017; and

WHEREAS, we have substantiated dramatic economic losses to local businesses in the motel, food, fuel, tackle and other businesses as well as the impact of the cancelation of the annual halibut derby, which was a significant tourist draw; and

WHEREAS, a three day season is unsafe as lives and property have been, and may be lost when someone makes a wrong decision to go out in bad weather because that is the only time they can legally fish during the year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Port Commission of the Port of Port Townsend intends to seek restoration of business activity as well as increased safety for the recreational fishing community by requesting the following regulations starting with the 2018 recreational halibut fishing season:

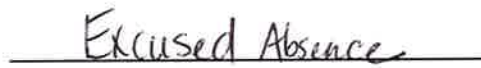
- 1) Fixed annual bag/possession limit of six (6) fish per person, per year
- 2) No poundage limit on an individual fish
- 3) Limit of one (1) fish per day and two (2) in possession
- 4) Season – second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October (to track the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PPFMS) ocean bottom fish fishery dates)

ADOPTED this 8th day of March 2017, by the Commission of the Port of Port Townsend and duly authenticated in open session by the signatures of the Commissioners voting in favor thereof and the Seal of the Commission duly affixed.

ATTEST:


Stephen R. Tucker, Secretary


Peter W. Hanke, President


Brad A. Clinefelter, Vice President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Port Attorney, Goodstein Law Group

