



Legislation Text

File #: RES 16-0036, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution #16-36 - Opposing Location and Timing of U.S. Navy Training Exercises That Pose Risks to Fisheries, Wildlife, and Marine Habitats in the Gulf of Alaska

SUBMITTED BY: Allie Ferko, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Over the past six months, Ms. Stolarcyk of the Eyak Preservation Council has been working with communities throughout southcentral Alaska to provide education regarding the U.S. Navy's proposed 2017 training activities in the Gulf of Alaska. Following her presentations, the City Councils in both Homer and Cordova passed resolutions expressing concerns with the timing and scope of the U.S. Navy's planned activities. These concerns relate to negative effects of training activities on salmon, marine mammals, birds, and marine habitats.

During the September 20th regular meeting, Valdez City Council expressed interest in reviewing a draft resolution proposed by Ms. Stolarcyk at the next regular Council meeting.

The following documents are attached for Council consideration:

- Letter from Emily Stolarcyk, Program Manager - Eyak Preservation Council regarding supplemental information and an overview of the proposed resolution addressing the U.S. Navy's 2017 trainings in the Gulf of Alaska.
- Draft Valdez City Council resolution: Opposing Location and Timing of U.S. Navy Training Exercises That Pose Risks to Fisheries, Wildlife, and Marine Habitats in the Gulf of Alaska (Drafted by Ms. Stolarcyk with minor edits by the City Clerks Office)
- Approved resolutions from the Homer and Cordova City Councils.

Additionally, the City's COMDEV Department provided a 2010 letter from the City of Valdez Coastal District Coordinator (formerly Ms. Laura Robertson) to the Alaska Coastal Management Program Division of Coastal and Ocean Management.

The letter outlines concerns with the USACE's 2010 De Minimus determination offered under the Navy's EIS for proposed training in the Gulf of Alaska and the impact those activities could have on the mobile resources (marine mammals and fish) that swim through the area. Although dated, background and technical information contained in this letter may be useful to Council during consideration of the proposed resolution.