

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2011

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HJR 27

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
15



Supporting the relocation of the home port of the Coastal Villages Region Fund fishing fleet from Seattle to Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the State of Alaska worked tirelessly within the framework of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to transition from a federal fishery dominated by foreign fishing vessels to a fishery fully utilized by Americans; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, the state worked in partnership with the state's Congressional delegation to promote the community development quota (CDQ) initiative in the Bering Sea, which provided residents of the villages located on and around the Bering Sea fisheries a stake in the fishing industry; and

WHEREAS many past leaders of the state have shared a longstanding goal of Alaskanizing ownership of the fishing fleets serving the CDQ groups and home-porting those fleets in the state; and

WHEREAS the Coastal Villages Region Fund, one of six CDQ groups and the largest Alaskan-owned and Alaska-based seafood company in the state's 100-year history of commercial fisheries, holds either 100 percent sole ownership of its fishing fleet or ownership

in partnership with another CDQ group; and

WHEREAS the Coastal Villages Region Fund is projected to make \$75,000,000 in seafood sales in 2011; and

WHEREAS the Coastal Villages Region Fund has become so big and successful that it costs \$2,000,000 to fill up the fuel tanks of its fishing fleet just one time, spends approximately \$20,000,000 annually in Seattle for moorage, vendor support, and maintenance, and spends approximately \$2,000,000 each year to fly crews between Alaska and Seattle; and

WHEREAS the money spent by the Coastal Villages Region Fund in Seattle is money that could be spent in the state; and

WHEREAS the legislation establishing the CDQ groups requires that the earnings of those groups be reinvested in the Bering Sea area; and

WHEREAS no locations within the Bering Sea area meet the home-porting requirements of the large fishing and processing vessels owned by the Coastal Villages Region Fund; and

WHEREAS the Coastal Villages Region Fund desires to relocate its home port from Seattle to a port in Alaska that has the following characteristics:

- (1) a year-round ice-free deep water port;
- (2) road, rail, and air access;
- (3) available space on the water and upland for development;
- (4) major ship repair capabilities; and
- (5) maritime training and licensing; and

WHEREAS, after a statewide review, the Coastal Villages Region Fund has determined that the City of Seward is the only community in the state that meets all of its requirements; and

WHEREAS the president and board of directors of the Coastal Villages Region Fund have proposed that Seward become the home port for its growing fishing and processing fleet; and

WHEREAS the Coastal Villages Region Fund requires a half-mile of dock space to dock its fishing vessels, 20,000 square feet of warehouse space, 5,000 square feet of office space, and five to 10 acres of fenced yard for equipment and staging; and

WHEREAS the relocation of the Coastal Villages Region Fund to Seward will encourage and facilitate the relocation of the remaining five CDQ groups to the state; and

WHEREAS the home-porting of the largest CDQ group in Seward will begin the transition of hiring vendors from inside the state to repair propellers and vessels, weld and paint, service electronics, mend fishing gear, repair diesel engines, supply packaging, provide fuel and groceries, and provide marine safety training; and

WHEREAS, with the relocation of the home port to Seward, the money earned by the Coastal Villages Region Fund in the Bering Sea fisheries will ripple through the state's economy; and

WHEREAS the Alaska District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers has made a preliminary finding that the relocation of the Coastal Villages Region Fund fishing fleet to Seward is economically feasible; and

WHEREAS the infrastructure for home-porting the Coastal Villages Region Fund fishing fleet in Seward will build on the \$70,000,000 in existing infrastructure at the Seward Marine Industrial Center that was constructed in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS the City of Seward has paid for the initial engineering analysis to home-port the Coastal Villages Region Fund in Seward; and

WHEREAS construction of the infrastructure to support home-porting the Coastal Villages Region Fund in Seward may be completed by December 15, 2014;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the relocation of the home port of the Coastal Villages Region Fund fishing fleet from Seattle to Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.