

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION CY25-15**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS SUPPORTING SEA OTTER MANAGEMENT IN  
SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gustavus is a community that is dependent on abundant, sustainable resources from the coastal waters of Southeast Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the late 1960's, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reintroduced approximately 400 sea otters in six different locations to near shore waters of Southeast Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS**, the federal government, which has jurisdiction over sea otter management under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), has not adequately mitigated negative effects on shellfish resources resulting from sea otter reintroduction; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proliferation of sea otters, which consume substantial volumes of, upon which the region's residents also heavily rely, contributes to diminished harvests of these important resources for subsistence and commercial purpose; and,

**WHEREAS**, the high density of sea otters has depleted shellfish stocks to the extent that subsistence and personal use is diminished; and

**WHEREAS**, Southeast Alaska's indigenous inhabitants have hunted sea otters since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Natives under the Marine Mammal Protection act are denied the customary and traditional ability to sell intact sea otter pelts; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 101 of the US Marine Mammal Protection Act further allows for the use of marine mammal pelts in the creation of authentic native articles of handicraft and clothing; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Act, such value added fur products, so created, are already allowable for sale in both intra and interstate commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, the management of harvestable resources for sustained yield, subject to preferences among beneficial uses, is mandated in the Alaska Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 119 of the US Marine Mammal Protection Act allows the Secretary of the Department of Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations for the conservation of marine mammals, the development of marine mammal co-management structures with Federal and State agencies and the creation of local management plans for the harvest of marine mammals for subsistence use and providing protection to important subsistence shellfish resources; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Gustavus urges the appropriate Federal agencies work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska Native and non-Native leaders in the Southeast region, to establish strategies and to increase harvestable shellfish resources, while maintaining sustainable sea otter populations in Southeast Alaska.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this XX<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025, and effective upon adoption.

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Sally A. McLaughlin, Mayor

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Attest: Liesl M. Barker, City Clerk