

CLEARANCES	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Orig. Dept.: County Council	4/30/97		5/6/97	Nat Res / Council
Division Head:				
Dept. Head:				
Prosecutor:				
Budget:				
Executive:				

SUBJECT:

Resolution support use of modified gillnets for non-tribal fishers

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed resolution

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Related County Contract #: n/a	Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N N	Requested Date:
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This resolution strongly urges the appropriate state and federal agencies to support a phase-in of modified gillnets for the 1998 salmon season and beyond.

RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN

1997 - 162 5/6/97: Approved 7 - 0. Res. #97-024

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):

Res 97-024

SPONSORED BY: Nelson

PROPOSED BY: Nelson

INTRODUCTION DATE: 5/6/97

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 97-024**

2 **SUPPORTING PHASING IN THE USE OF MODIFIED GILLNETS FOR NON-TRIBAL**
3 **FISHERS TO PROTECT SEA BIRDS**

4 **WHEREAS**, the non-tribal gillnet fleet has been involved in an in-depth study conducted
5 by Ed Melvin of Washington Sea Grant, and has cooperated to the fullest extent by having observers
6 on board while fishing during the past three years; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, along with U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife, finds it necessary to impose bird net regulations for non-tribal gillnets in Commercial
9 Fishing Area 7 for the 1997 season, creating an undue hardship on non-tribal commercial gillnet
10 fishers; and

11 **WHEREAS**, gillnet companies who manufacture the modified nets are saying they cannot
12 make the modified nets for the 1997 fishing season because there is not enough time; and

13 **WHEREAS**, gillnet fishers must absorb the cost of the new web and the construction of the
14 nets, even though the web cannot be made available until the salmon season is nearly complete; and

15 **WHEREAS**, research shows a significant reduction of sea-bird by-catch by gillnets fishing
16 during daylight hours on abundant salmon stocks using existing gillnets; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Fraser Panel, with support from the Pacific Salmon Commission staff, will
18 manage the fishing area during sockeye and pink salmon fisheries in 1997 to allow for maximum
19 reduction of sea-bird by-catch by gillnets.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council strongly
21 urges the appropriate state and federal agencies to support a phasing-in of modified gillnets for the
22 1998 salmon season and beyond. By doing this, the fishers and net companies can respond to
23 regulations requiring that modified nets be used by gillnet fishers.

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APPROVED this 6 day of May, 1997.


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ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council




L. Ward Nelson, Council Chair

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Civil Deputy Prosecutor