

**CITY OF CRAIG  
RESOLUTION 11-02**

**REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES MODIFY  
MANAGEMENT OF AREA SEA OTTER POPULATIONS TO PROTECT EXISTING  
COMMON PROPERTY COMMERCIAL FISHERIES AND CREATE NEW  
RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Craig is a municipality organized under Title 29 of Alaska Statutes, located on Prince of Wales Island; and

**WHEREAS**, the economy of Craig is very dependent upon commercial fishing; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the 1960's the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reintroduced approximately 400 sea otters in six different locations in Southeast Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS**, sea otter populations in southern Southeast Alaska have doubled since 2003 with the most recent population estimated at about 11,600 animals; and,

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has jurisdiction under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and has no active management plan to prevent damage to ecosystems and commercial fisheries from sea otter predation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the remarkable increase in the sea otter population threatens many commercial and non-commercial species, including clams, crab, abalone, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and geoducks to the point where commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries are threatened, and,

**WHEREAS**, Craig and other Southeast Alaska communities rely on these threatened commercial, subsistence, and sport resources for their livelihoods; and,

**WHEREAS**, commercial and subsistence users report depleted species stocks in areas of high sea otter abundance; and,

**WHEREAS**, if left unchecked, the continued loss of commercial, subsistence, and sport stocks will have negative impacts on the seafood industry.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Craig hereby requests that the State of Alaska and federal agencies work with community leaders in Southeast Alaska on options to better manage sea otter populations to maintain existing commercial, subsistence, and sport resources and create a new resource opportunity as to the management of sea otters.

APPROVED February 3, 2011.

A. Millie Schoonover  
A. Millie Schoonover, Mayor

ATTEST Vicki Hamilton  
Vicki Hamilton, City Clerk

