



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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Resolution 2010-3

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CHUITNA RIVER COAL MINE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, PacRim Coal, a Delaware corporation, is actively seeking state and federal permits to operate the Chuitna coal strip mine 45 miles west of Anchorage, along the shores of Cook Inlet, near the communities of Tyonek and Beluga; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine would be the first mine ever permitted in Alaska to actively mine through and completely remove a salmon-bearing stream, and will set a crucial precedent for large mine development in Alaska for years to come; and

WHEREAS, proposed coal storage and export facilities for the Chuitna coal strip mine seeks to displace existing shore fisheries, will directly interfere with commercial set net leases and fishing operations in the area, and will adversely affect fishing in Upper Cook Inlet, including in the Mat-Su Valley; and

WHEREAS, Upper Cook Inlet supports important fisheries that provide sustainable commercial fishing opportunities to local families, communities, and businesses; and


WHEREAS, the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine would discharge over 7 million gallons of mine waste each day into the salmon-rich watershed of the Chuitna River and into Cook Inlet fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the Chuitna coal project would include a large surface coal strip mine, a 12 mile coal conveyance system, and a two mile long trestle and dock system extending into Cook Inlet for loading Cape Class vessels for coal exports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT United Fishermen of Alaska is opposed to the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine until PacRim Coal and relevant state and federal agencies present information showing the proposed mine will not mine through salmon streams, nor interrupt in-stream flow, nor adversely affect the long term health and sustainability of fishery resources and fisheries in the Upper Cook Inlet watershed.

By UFA Board of Directors, September 29, 2010:


Arni Thomson, UFA President


Attest: Mark D. Vinsel, UFA Executive Director