

RESOLUTION 20-02

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF HOLMES BEACH, FLORIDA'S OPPOSITION TO MARINE FINFISH AQUACULTURE IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO

WHEREAS, the federal government has expressed interest in opening the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to marine finfish aquaculture development; and,

WHEREAS, marine finfish aquaculture facilities pose significant risks to water quality and the marine ecosystem that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, seabirds and other marine life; and,

WHEREAS, the full impacts of offshore aquaculture are not yet fully understood by scientists, the industry, or the federal government; and,

WHEREAS, marine finfish aquaculture facilities directly discharge pollutants into the surrounding ocean, including untreated fish waste, pharmaceuticals, and heavy metals, which could exacerbate coral die-off and harmful algal blooms like the Red Tide; and,

WHEREAS, marine finfish aquaculture would impact our local, wild-capture fishing industry, which is already struggling to rebuild after recent Gulf disasters, such as oil spills, hurricanes, the Red Tide; and,

WHEREAS, marine finfish aquaculture will pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Holmes Beach, Florida recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Holmes Beach, Florida endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, development of offshore aquaculture off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the seafood demand or trade concerns in our country; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Holmes Beach, Florida recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue truly responsible and sustainable seafood production methods, which pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using industrial methods of finfish cultivation and confinement in open water.


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLMES BEACH, FLORIDA THAT:

Section 1. Offshore aquaculture will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore, the Holmes Beach Mayor and City Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Section 2. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption by the City Commission and approval by the Mayor in accordance with the Charter of the City of Holmes Beach.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED, WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND VOTING THIS

28th day of January, 2020, by the City Commission of the City of Holmes Beach, Florida.



Patrick Morton



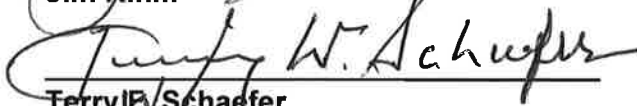
Carol Soustek



Kim Rash



Jim Kihm



Terry W. Schaefer

APPROVED BY ME THIS 3rd DAY OF February, 2020.



Judy Titsworth, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacey Johnston, MMC, City Clerk