

BY: M. of A. Barclay

CONGRATULATING Fran Verdoliva upon the occasion of his retirement from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation after 23 years of distinguished service as a Special Assistant to the Salmon River Watershed

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals whose exemplary careers, accomplishments, and purposeful lives of service on behalf of their profession and the environment have significantly enhanced the quality of life in the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Fran Verdoliva upon the occasion of his retirement from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation after 23 years of distinguished service as a Special Assistant to the Salmon River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, An avid outdoorsman, conservationist and fisherman, Fran Verdoliva used his talents and hands-on knowledge about the fish and the area to help establish the Salmon River Watershed and its surrounding communities as a fishing destination; and

WHEREAS, With a ceaseless dedication to his career, Fran Verdoliva served as an advocate for the fish, a true conservationist, and an ambassador for the community by welcoming and guiding fishermen in the area; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Fran Verdoliva's contributions to fly fishing were particularly influential; he successfully helped the public to move away from snag fishing salmon which became illegal in the 1990s and encouraged more traditional methods; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the inroads he made with public outreach and education on fishing methods for salmon helped protect fish and retain opportunities for the industry throughout northern New York; these methods helped set the standard for New York, Lake Ontario and beyond, reaching Lake Michigan tributaries; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong champion for the ethical treatment of fish and the health of Lake Ontario fisheries, Fran Verdoliva helped restore brook trout spawning habitat; and

WHEREAS, Fran Verdoliva provided ongoing educational programs at the Salmon River Hatchery for schoolchildren, developing the largest National Hunting and Fishing Day Open House each September for the past 20 years, which in the past has been attended by over 2,000 each year; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he provided educational fly fishing seminars and programs to local, regional and state-level public organizations; and

WHEREAS, Protecting fish while still providing fishing opportunity to the public and protecting natural resources for future generations, Fran Verdoliva also spearheaded the reintroduction of Atlantic salmon to Lake Ontario; and

WHEREAS, Fran Verdoliva has been the proud recipient of countless awards and accolades during his career for his educational contributions to proper fly-fishing etiquette, ethics, environmental conservation and protection of game fish; he was inducted into the Fly-Fishing Hall of Fame at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in Livingston Manor, New York, in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Fran Verdoliva has served the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Salmon River Watershed, the environment, and the people of the State of New York with honor and distinction; his accomplishments and contributions will most assuredly brook the passage of time and be recorded as significantly improving the quality of life for us all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Fran Verdoliva upon the occasion of his retirement, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Fran Verdoliva.