

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

### Session

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TO: Senator Joe Paskvan, Co-Chair Senate Resources  
Senator Tom Wagoner, Co-Chair Senate Resources

FROM: Senator Donald Olson

DATE: March 5, 2012

RE: SB 205 Hearing Request

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Chinook salmon are an important staple food of Alaska Native Villages, an economically important species for a number of commercial fisheries, and a prized sport fish.

The state fish of Alaska has undergone significant shifts in abundance during the past 40 years, yet little is known about the factors influencing these shifts. Eight of the 14 "stocks of concern" are Chinook salmon stocks.

SB 205 would create an endowment fund administered by a 7-member board consisting of the Commissioner of the Department of Fish & Game and six members from across the state. Grants from the fund would only be issued to qualifying organizations.

This legislation would create a stable, long-term source of funding to support high quality interdisciplinary research.

I would appreciate your hearing this bill at your earliest convenience.

Please direct questions to my staff, David Scott.