

Rep. Dave Talerico's Office

HB 107 - A Bill for establishing Policy for Restoring Wild Salmon Populations

This bill, co-drafted and revised with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, establishes policy for how restoration of wild salmon can be accomplished.

This bill supports the Alaska Constitution, Article 8 – Natural Resources:

- Section 2, ...provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources... for the maximum benefit of it people
- Section 4, Sustained Yield: "Fish... shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle..."

This policy is designed to manage how wild salmon can be restored through increased survival during their egg and Alevin stages of development.

This policy preserves the wild salmon's patterns of natural behavior and the state of Alaska's tried and true genetics policies are applied to this process.

They are not fed, nor are they held captive in pens. When it is time for the salmon to eat or be eaten, they are returned to the wild, preserving their natural genetic dispositions.

Further, this bill promotes educated involvement of our community members and especially youth. It specifically calls for collecting and sharing of data and communication between stakeholders.

Alaska has a long history of this type of successful enhancement:

- In the late 70's and early 80's, ADF&G successfully planted over 20 million Sockeye eggs into the upper Karluk River (historically the 2nd largest Sockeye run in the world) to restore the depleted run to pre-1921 population levels
- Since the early 1970's, ADF&G and then Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (under contract from ADF&G) annually enhances up to 40 million eggs per year into the Copper River watershed to augment the lack of spawning grounds in this river system. It is considered the largest Sockeye enhancement operation in the world... yet there is no conventional hatchery facility, using wild salmon for over 40 years.
- The Chickaloon Tribe successfully restored King Salmon to their village watershed from 2007-2012 using this approach.