House Concurrent Resolution 35

Sponsored by Representative HELM, Senator DEMBROW, Representatives HELT, SMITH DB, Senators GOLDEN, PROZANSKI; Representatives BONHAM, EVANS, FAHEY, GOMBERG, GORSEK, GREENLICK, LEWIS, LIVELY, MARSH, PILUSO, POWER, PRUSAK, REARDON, RESCHKE, SALINAS, SANCHEZ, WILDE, WILLIAMS, WITT, Senators KNOPP, MANNING JR, ROBLAN, TAYLOR, THOMSEN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Recognizes 2019 as International Year of the Salmon and expresses support for associated global initiative affirming importance of wild salmon.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas the International Year of the Salmon is a global initiative to stimulate outreach and
3 expand understanding of the conditions necessary to promote and maintain the diversity, produc-
4 tivity and resilience of wild salmon and people throughout the northern hemisphere; and

5 Whereas the International Year of the Salmon promotes understanding of wild salmon, including
6 the present status of wild salmon and their environments and the ways in which natural environ-
7 mental variability, climate change and human factors affect the diversity, distribution, productivity,
8 resilience and abundance of wild salmon; and

9 Whereas the International Year of the Salmon promotes collaboration in the development and
10 use of new technologies, ideas, tools and approaches to researching, restoring, managing and sus-
11 taining wild salmon by communities, indigenous peoples, youth, harvesters, scientists, resource
12 managers and policy makers across the northern hemisphere; and

13 Whereas the International Year of the Salmon promotes the sharing of available historical and
14 current data about wild salmon and their environments; and

15 Whereas wild salmon have historically been an important part of the diets, economies and cul-
16 tures of people throughout the northern hemisphere; and

17 Whereas the wild salmon is recognized as a keystone species, defined as a species on which
18 other species in an ecosystem largely depend, such that if it were removed, the ecosystem would
19 change drastically; and

20 Whereas wild salmon provide vast ecological benefits to the flora and fauna in marine and
21 freshwater ecosystems, which are critical to the survival of many other species in our world's food
22 web; and

23 Whereas the health of wild salmon is an indicator of the general environmental health of their
24 surroundings; and

25 Whereas tribes of the Columbia River and Oregon coastal rivers have relied on wild salmon for
26 thousands of years, and wild salmon continue to play a critical dietary, economic and cultural role
27 in tribal communities; and

28 Whereas the commercial and recreational salmon fishing industries in southeast Alaska,
29 Washington and Oregon create more than $3.4 billion in revenue and more than 26,000 jobs each
30 year; and

1   Whereas the sustainability of Oregon's commercial and recreational fisheries depends on the
2 recovery of wild salmon populations; and

3   Whereas in 2017, nine of the 22 Chinook stocks along the west coast of the United States and
4 Canada failed to meet escapement goals agreed to by the Pacific Salmon Commission; and

5   Whereas 28 populations of salmon and steelhead on the west coast of the United States are
6 listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act; and

7   Whereas in the 1970s and 1980s, as many as 900,000 Atlantic salmon returned annually to
8 streams and rivers along the east coast of North America, but, in 2017, it was estimated that only
9 496,000 Atlantic salmon spawned and nearly all of those returned to Canadian watersheds; and

10   Whereas in the United States, where wild Atlantic salmon are listed under the federal Endan-
11 gered Species Act, only 1,041 Atlantic salmon returned to U.S. rivers in 2017; and

12   Whereas the International Year of the Salmon establishes a period to celebrate and educate
13 about the contributions of wild salmon to the health and economy of the State of Oregon, the United
14 States, Canada and other nations around the world, and to explore ways to rebuild salmon stocks
15 that are failing to meet escapement goals; now, therefore,

16 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

17   That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize 2019 as the International
18 Year of the Salmon and support the goals and efforts that are promoted as part of the associated
19 global initiative; and be it further

20   Resolved, That we encourage individuals and local, state, tribal, national and international
21 governments, corporations and other relevant organizations to work together to collect, develop and
22 analyze best available scientific research to better understand wild salmon populations; and be it
23 further

24   Resolved, That we encourage individuals and local, state, tribal, national and international
25 governments, corporations and other relevant organizations to work together to uphold regulatory
26 processes that apply best available science and implement best practices, such as developing es-
27 capement targets, developing habitat protection and restoration criteria that support spawning and
28 juvenile rearing and maintaining the biological diversity of each species and population in order to
29 better manage wild salmon populations and fisheries and the industries that wild salmon support;
30 and be it further

31   Resolved, That we celebrate the continued protection and restoration of wild salmon populations
32 and the health and social benefits that wild salmon provide to the State of Oregon and the United
33 States; and be it further

34   Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of the State of Oregon
35 and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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