

Alaska State Legislature

Community and Regional Affairs

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HR 8 – Requesting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to locate its Alaska-focused employees, programs and assets in the state.

Sponsor Statement

House Resolution 8 requests the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) headquarter in Alaska as many Alaska-focused assets in Alaska as possible.

NOAA has a two-fold mission in Alaska: management and scientific research. To fulfill NOAA's mission, the Alaska Regional Office is responsible for regional management and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) is responsible for regional scientific research.

While the Alaska Regional Office is headquartered in Juneau, the AFSC is headquartered in Seattle. The Auke Bay Laboratories, housed in the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, are a division of AFSC, and house approximately 60 full-time employees as well as 20 additional full-time contractors. Currently, the AFSC director is based in Juneau, Alaska.

The resolution specifically requests NOAA fully staff the Auke Bay Laboratories. The Auke Bay Laboratories could hold 20 to 30 additional staff or contractors, contingent on federal funding. Additionally, the resolution asks that the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Director remain based in Juneau.