

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Resolution 8

“Recognizing 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon and supporting an associated global initiative identifying the importance of wild salmon”

House Resolution 8 recognizes 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon. This resolution was introduced in conjunction with measures in Washington and Oregon to recognize the importance of salmon in the Pacific Northwest. The International Year of the Salmon is a project launched by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

Declaring 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon has resulted in organizations from around the world collaborating on salmon research and outreach. The overall theme is ‘salmon and people in a changing world.’ Passing House Resolution 8 is one way the State of Alaska can recognize the importance of salmon to our State, and around the world, and encourage greater research of salmon and the factors that impact their survival.

The health of salmon populations across the Northern Hemisphere vary, but even the strongest salmon populations face threats from both humans and the changing environment. Scientists still have a lot to learn about salmon life cycles, the impacts of a warming climate and increased development.

All along the West Coast, the strong subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries are critically important for both the culture and economy. Now, though, many salmon runs are struggling, making it more important than ever that we work collaboratively to do the research needed to ensure our salmon are here for generations to come. Up and down the West Coast and across the Northern Hemisphere salmon have sustained humans and been celebrated since the beginning of time.

In 2019, and even through 2022, there will be International Year of the Salmon events and projects, from dam removal in Maine, to high seas research in the Gulf of Alaska, to river cleanup projects in Northern Ireland. House Resolution 8 celebrates salmon and encourages research and outreach to better understand salmon as part of this global initiative.

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