

Alaska House Fisheries Committee
HR 8: International Year of the Salmon Resolution
Juneau, Alaska

April 15th, 2019

Dear Chairwoman Stutes and the Alaska House Fisheries Committee Members,

Nearly every Alaskan has a connection to salmon and Alaska's waters, whether through sport, subsistence, or commercial fishing, eating wild Alaska salmon, or being drawn to the wild places salmon need.

For millennia, salmon thrived in Europe, New England, and the West Coast of North America. In the last few centuries, however, as they were overfished or their habitat was dammed, mined, logged, polluted, simplified, or surrounded by buildings and people, they disappeared. Now, all our other salmon states hang on to mere remnants of past runs and they have spent billions of dollars trying to bring back what used to work beautifully and for free.

The next few years will determine the future of salmon in Alaska. In light of climate change, which threatens many of Alaska's salmon populations, we must learn from the past and take care of what we have, ensuring salmon spawning and rearing habitat is restored, maintained and protected.

At SalmonState, we work to keep wild salmon swimming up the rivers they've returned to for thousands of years. We want to be able to dipnet on the Kenai, troll in Southeast Alaska, fill the smokehouse at fish camp, gillnet in Bristol Bay, or cast a line into the water from the shore forever. Alaska is the Salmon State. We, and our supporters, work to keep it that way.

SalmonState supports the passage of HR 8 2019: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON and commends our elected lawmakers' commitment to bring together scientists, Indigenous Peoples, fishers, policy makers, and resource managers to share and develop knowledge that will enhance the effectiveness of efforts to conserve and protect salmon. When we take care of salmon, we're taking care of our communities, our families, and the great State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Tim Bristol
Executive Director
[SalmonState](https://salmonstate.org)