

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 5/17/22**

**Referred: Fisheries**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

3 **WHEREAS** the state is home to five species of wild, sustainable Pacific salmon,  
4 King, Coho, Sockeye, Pink, and Keta; and

5 **WHEREAS** subsistence fishing for salmon has sustained Alaska Native people for  
6 thousands of years; and

7 **WHEREAS** recreational fishing for salmon is a lifelong pursuit for urban and rural  
8 residents of the state, and commercial salmon fishing has been a mainstay industry in the state  
9 for over a century; and

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska is the only state with a constitutional requirement that fishing be  
11 managed on the sustained yield principle; and

12 **WHEREAS** Alaska accounts for over 90 percent of the commercial catch in the  
13 United States, is the world's premier source of wild salmon, and accounts for 11 percent of the  
14 world's commercial harvest of salmon; and

15 **WHEREAS**, from 2018 to 2021, salmon fisheries in the state accounted for 75  
16 percent of the fishery disaster declarations for the state; and

1       **WHEREAS**, in 2021, there were record low runs for many salmon species in western  
2 regions of the state, while there were record high runs for sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay; and

3       **WHEREAS** those low runs of salmon led to a ban on subsistence fishing for certain  
4 salmon species in rural communities and lower catch limits in other fisheries, which had  
5 significant negative effects on communities that rely on salmon for subsistence and for which  
6 fishing is a way of life; and

7       **WHEREAS** the state responsibly manages seafood using a world-class, science-based  
8 approach to help fish stocks, communities, and entire ecosystems thrive; and

9       **WHEREAS** sustainable seafood is the most environmentally efficient source of  
10 protein on the planet, and seafood harvested in the state is managed using environmentally  
11 responsible practices; and

12       **WHEREAS** approximately 95 percent of the state's food is imported, and sustainable  
13 seafood is crucial not only to the food security of residents of the state, but is also a deeply  
14 ingrained tradition; and

15       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force that would be established by the  
16 Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act would create working groups to focus on specific  
17 regions or fish stocks, including a working group focused specifically on salmon returns in the  
18 Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim regions of the state; and

19       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act seeks to ensure that, for  
20 Pacific salmon trends in the state, productivity and abundance are characterized, research  
21 needs are identified, and a coordinated salmon research strategy is established;

22       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives respectfully urges the United  
23 States Congress to pass S. 3429, the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act, as introduced  
24 by Senator Dan Sullivan and Senator Lisa Murkowski.