

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2018

Source
HR 8 am

House
Resolve No.
8



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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS Alaska's coast stretches between the North Pacific and Arctic Oceans, bordering the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Beaufort Sea, for a length greater than the coastlines of all other states combined; and

WHEREAS Alaska's fisheries generate approximately \$4,500,000,000 a year; and

WHEREAS the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration dedicates many assets, such as the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Alaska Regional Office, and the research vessel Fairweather, to the study of the state's weather, water, and marine life; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Fisheries Science Center is located in Seattle, Washington, even though its publicly stated mission is "to generate the scientific information and analysis necessary for the conservation, management, and utilization of the [Alaska] region's living marine resources and the environmental quality essential for their existence"; and

WHEREAS the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, part of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, is headquartered in Juneau, Alaska, and the institute's Auke Bay laboratories

facility is designed to accommodate up to 108 employees, the facility currently houses only approximately 60 employees; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Regional Office is headquartered in Juneau, Alaska, and maintains field offices around the state that employ approximately 400 individuals conducting field and laboratory research;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to base its Alaska-focused assets in the state so that the agency's study of the state's weather, water, and marine life can be best served by personnel and infrastructure situated in the great state where their responsibilities lie; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fully staff the Auke Bay laboratories so that the facility may operate as designed; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests that the director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center be based full time in Juneau, Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., United States Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Timothy Gallaudet, Ph.D., acting Under Secretary of Commerce For Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator, United States Department of Commerce; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.