

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

CSHCR 38(Res)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

48



Requesting the Pacific Salmon Commission to increase Alaska's chinook salmon quota.

### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the abundance of chinook salmon in southeast Alaska waters has significantly exceeded the population-rebuilding projections of the United States-Canada Salmon Treaty; and

WHEREAS the southeast Alaska chinook salmon quota is based on these 1984 projections, which do not reflect the current abundance of chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS southeast Alaska has suffered substantial economic losses under treaty harvest quotas; and

WHEREAS area closures for chinook salmon have had disastrous economic effects on many southeast Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS each chinook salmon is worth \$60 to \$150 to a fisherman; and

WHEREAS staying within the quota imposes an unfair amount of social and economic loss to Alaska not experienced by other parties involved in the United States-Canada Salmon Treaty; and

WHEREAS the harvests of far-north migrating chinook salmon stocks in some Washington and Oregon fisheries has increased substantially, many above treaty levels; and

WHEREAS these Washington and Oregon stocks, which contribute to Alaska's salmon fisheries, are considerably above the treaty escapement goals, some by as much as 300 percent; and

WHEREAS the southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll season has been reduced from 169 days in 1979 to only 23 days in

1987; and

WHEREAS reductions in the Southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll season first occurred in 1980 as part of the chinook salmon rebuilding program; and

WHEREAS treaty agreements have shortened the southeast Alaska troll season so much that Alaskan hatchery fish cannot be harvested to the level promised; and

WHEREAS longer seasons benefit the southeast Alaska fishing industry by ensuring higher quality fish products and higher market prices; and

WHEREAS a fair increase in the southeast Alaska chinook salmon harvest quota will not jeopardize the natural stock rebuilding program;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States section of the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission to work to substantially increase the chinook quota for Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Steve Cowper, Governor of the State of Alaska; and to Don Collinworth, Alaska Commissioner, Pacific Salmon Commission.