

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ELTON, Bunde, Robinson, Kubina

SENATORS Pearce, Kelly, Leman, Taylor, Green, Torgerson, Rieger, Salo, Duncan, Hoffman, Zharoff, Lincoln, Phillips

Introduced: 4/22/95

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A RESOLUTION

**1 Proposing postage stamps honoring wild Alaska salmon and centuries of continued
2 use of wild Alaska salmon for subsistence, sport, and commercial fish harvesters.**

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

4 WHEREAS the cold, clear, clean waters off Alaska's 34,000 mile coast are the world's
5 greatest resource for natural, wild salmon; and

6 WHEREAS Alaska's rivers and streams are the nurseries for the world's most
7 important and productive runs of wild and natural salmon; and

8 WHEREAS, in the pristine waters of Alaska, the five species of Alaska salmon mature
9 in an unmatched natural environment that provides them with superior flavor, color, and
10 texture; and

11 WHEREAS wild Alaska salmon have increased in numbers year after year; and

12 WHEREAS Alaska's wild and natural salmon are a mainstay of Alaska's complex
13 subsistence economy and lifestyle, providing protein and adding to the rich complexity of
14 Alaska's diverse cultures; and

15 WHEREAS subsistence harvesting of salmon allows extended families to support
16 themselves in meaningful, productive work in areas of the state that do not have cash

1 economies to sustain the protein needs of Alaskans; and

2 **WHEREAS** Alaska's wild and natural salmon play an increasing role in the state's
3 visitor industry, attracting sport anglers from around the world who are served by a growing
4 lodge, charter boat, and tourism industry; and

5 **WHEREAS** participation in recreational fishing in Alaska has grown from 46,000
6 anglers at statehood to 426,514 anglers in 1993; and

7 **WHEREAS** there were more than 2,500,000 angler days of fishing in Alaska in 1993;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** sport angler expenditures translate into gross business revenue of about
10 \$500,000,000 and several thousand jobs in Alaska; and

11 **WHEREAS** the premier sport fish in Alaska is wild, natural salmon; and

12 **WHEREAS** wild Alaska salmon account for more than 90 percent of all salmon
13 harvested commercially in the United States each year; and

14 **WHEREAS** exports of wild Alaska salmon help balance the United States trade deficit
15 because more than 50 percent of the Alaska commercial harvest of salmon is sent overseas;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS** exports of wild Alaska salmon were worth nearly \$750,000,000 in 1993,
18 the last year for which accurate customs numbers are available; and

19 **WHEREAS** more than 35,000 jobs in Alaska rely on the seafood industry and the
20 seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in Alaska; and

21 **WHEREAS** the salmon segment of the seafood industry is the oldest component of
22 the industry and one of the most important elements in the industry;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports recognition of wild
24 Alaska salmon through the issuance of United States postal stamps recognizing the five
25 species of wild Alaska salmon and centuries of continued use of wild salmon, Alaska's most
26 important renewable resource and a resource that is managed on a sustained yield basis for
27 the benefit of subsistence, sport, and commercial harvesters.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Marvin Runyon, Postmaster
29 General, United States Postal Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
30 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
31 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.