

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MASEK, Mulder

Introduced: 2/22/95

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to management of the salmon fisheries of the upper Cook Inlet area.

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

3 WHEREAS Alaska is renowned throughout the world for the abundance and diversity
4 of its fishery resources; and

5 WHEREAS a large proportion of the residents of the state, constituting a broad
6 spectrum of the life styles found in the state, depend on the fishery resources of the state for
7 food, a mainstay of livelihood, and recreation; and

8 WHEREAS the fair and impartial allocation of the fisheries resources of the state is
9 consistent with the mandate of the Alaska State Constitution for use of the state's resources
10 consistent with the public interest and for the maximum benefit of the people of the state; and

11 WHEREAS the allocation of the fishery resources of the state based solely on the
12 direct economic return associated with the sale of those resources is not wholly consistent with
13 the maximum use, common use, and preferences among beneficial uses provisions of the
14 Alaska State Constitution; and

15 WHEREAS certain salmon stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area, which are significantly
16 affected by the management of the commercial salmon fisheries of upper Cook Inlet, are
17 experiencing sharp declines in abundance; and

1 **WHEREAS** the noncommercial harvest of certain salmon stocks in the upper Cook
2 Inlet area has been more restrictively regulated than has the commercial harvest of those
3 stocks; and

4 **WHEREAS** the public response to restrictions placed almost entirely upon the
5 noncommercial users of the salmon of the upper Cook Inlet area has been overwhelmingly and
6 consistently negative; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature has received a great number of requests to
8 intervene in the management of the salmon of the upper Cook Inlet area on the behalf of the
9 noncommercial users; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature seeks to avoid involvement in the allocation
11 decisions of the Alaska Board of Fisheries;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
13 Governor to direct the Board of Fisheries to address the management crisis facing the salmon
14 fisheries of the upper Cook Inlet area before or during its March 1995 meeting and to
15 establish a task force to gather information on salmon stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area, in
16 particular those salmon stocks that are declining in abundance; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Fisheries be directed to examine data from
18 all segments of the salmon fisheries of the upper Cook Inlet area, including information on
19 incidental harvests, interception by other fisheries, expansion of commercial and
20 noncommercial harvests of the salmon stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area, and historical
21 trends in the harvest of the salmon stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature stresses to the Board of
23 Fisheries the importance of fully considering all values associated with the salmon stocks of
24 the upper Cook Inlet area, including the full economic and social impacts of the commercial
25 and noncommercial uses of the resource, and relevant economic factors, implications for
26 resident hire, resident ownership of salmon harvesting and processing operations in the upper
27 Cook Inlet area, and overall importance and contribution of the various uses of the salmon
28 stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area to the overall best interest of the State of Alaska.