

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Introduced: 4/7/95

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to commercial fishing and subsistence use in Glacier Bay National Park.

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

3 WHEREAS the National Park Service is currently addressing the issue of subsistence
4 use and commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park (Park) and is considering the status
5 of subsistence use and commercial fishing in the park; and

6 WHEREAS subsistence use and commercial fishing have occurred in the Park since
7 before it was established as a national monument in 1925 up to the present day; and

8 WHEREAS the National Park Service currently does not recognize the right of
9 residents of Hoonah and other local communities to use the area now included in the Park for
10 subsistence use, as their ancestors had done for generations; and

11 WHEREAS the prohibition of subsistence use and commercial fishing in the Park
12 would have disastrous and widespread economic and social consequences for the fishermen
13 of northern Southeast Alaska and the communities in which they reside; and

14 WHEREAS the continued subsistence and commercial use of fisheries resources
15 within the navigable waters of the Park are desirable and are environmentally compatible with
16 the purposes of the Park; and

17 WHEREAS the harvest of fisheries resources in the Park is conservatively managed

1 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote
2 the sustained health of the fish stocks; and

3 **WHEREAS** migratory species of fish that do not originate in the Park constitute the
4 majority of the fish harvested within the Park; a portion of the salmon harvested in the Park
5 is the result of salmon enhancement and rehabilitation efforts by the State of Alaska and
6 private nonprofit aquaculture associations; and

7 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service must administer the Park subject to existing
8 rights, statutes, and regulations; and

9 **WHEREAS** National Park Service regulations specifically provide for commercial
10 sport fishing activities and for the use of large tour ships within the Park; and

11 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska has a claim to ownership of the submerged lands and
12 navigable waters of the Park; and

13 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska exercises management authority over fishery resources
14 of the Park; and

15 **WHEREAS** issues relating to state and federal jurisdiction in the Park have not been
16 resolved; and

17 **WHEREAS** subsistence use and commercial fishing in the Park do not threaten Park
18 resources, visitor enjoyment of Park resources, or whale habitat in the Park;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
20 National Park Service to work with the state, other federal agencies, and affected parties to
21 study the resources in Glacier Bay National Park and the effect of sport and commercial
22 fishing, subsistence use, and tourism on these resources; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Park Service proceed expeditiously to
24 amend its regulations in order to

25 (1) allow commercial fishing under the laws of the State of Alaska within the
26 nonwilderness areas of the park; and

27 (2) expressly provide for subsistence uses in the Park.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
29 United States; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior;
30 Roger G. Kennedy, Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; Robert
31 Barbee, Alaska Regional Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; and

1 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
2 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.