

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/20/95

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

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

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

4 **WHEREAS** the cold, 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, streams, and lakes 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, five species of Pacific salmon mature
9 in an unmatched natural environment that provides them with superior flavor, color, and
10 texture; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska's salmon are a mainstay of Alaska's subsistence and commercial
12 economies and lifestyles; and

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

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

1 and

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

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

6 **WHEREAS** the salmon segment of the seafood industry is the oldest component of
7 the industry and one of its most important elements; and

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

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

13 **WHEREAS** sport angler expenditures translate into gross business revenue of about
14 \$500,000,000 and several thousand jobs in Alaska; and

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

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

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