

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR WARD

Introduced: 2/26/99

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the membership of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

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

3 WHEREAS the Pacific Salmon Commission was established to implement the treaty
4 between the United States and Canada concerning Pacific salmon; and

5 WHEREAS the State of Alaska supports the goals of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and
6 the efforts of the Pacific Salmon Commission; and

7 WHEREAS the commission is composed of four United States members and four
8 Canadian members; and

9 WHEREAS the four United States members of the commission consist of one official
10 of the United States government who is a nonvoting member, one resident of Alaska, one
11 resident of Washington or Oregon, and one member who is nominated by the treaty tribes of
12 Idaho, Washington, and Oregon; and

13 WHEREAS four alternate commissioners are appointed to serve on the commission
14 in the absence of a commissioner, and the alternate commissioners are appointed in
15 accordance with the same criteria as the primary members of the commission; and

16 WHEREAS Alaska Natives are important members of the fishing community in the
17 United States and are dependent upon Pacific salmon for financial, subsistence, and cultural

1 purposes; and

2 **WHEREAS** a large portion of Alaska is Alaska Native land, and the Annette Island
3 Indian Reservation in Southeast Alaska is Indian country; and

4 **WHEREAS** there is not a position on the commission for an Alaska Native
5 commissioner and alternate commissioner; and

6 **WHEREAS** the interests of Alaska Natives are not represented by a commissioner
7 who is nominated by the treaty tribes of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon; and

8 **WHEREAS** the appointment of an Alaska Native commissioner and alternate
9 commissioner to the commission would provide more equal representation of the interests of
10 Alaska Natives and the treaty tribes; and

11 **WHEREAS** the goals and effectiveness of the Pacific Salmon Treaty would be
12 advanced by adding an Alaska Native commissioner and alternate commissioner to the Pacific
13 Salmon Commission;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
15 President of the United States to take the necessary steps, including renegotiation of the
16 Pacific Salmon Treaty and restructuring of the United States membership of the Pacific
17 Salmon Commission, as appropriate, to provide for an Alaska Native commissioner and
18 alternate commissioner on the commission.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
20 United States; the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable
21 Bruce Babbitt, U.S. Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
22 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
23 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.