

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR LINCOLN

Introduced: 1/20/04
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the labeling of salmon and salmon food products.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Americans deserve to know what is in their food and where it comes
4 from; and

5 **WHEREAS**, due in part to the increased production of farmed salmon from other
6 countries, the Alaska seafood industry faces unfair market challenges; and

7 **WHEREAS** new information on the health risks of farmed salmon has been released
8 in a recent study entitled "Global Assessment of Organic Contaminants in Farmed Salmon"
9 by researchers from Indiana University, Citizens for a Better Environment, the State
10 University of New York at Albany, AXYS Analytical Services, and Cornell University; and

11 **WHEREAS** the study showed that farmed salmon contained consistently higher
12 levels of organochlorine contaminants, such as PCBs and dioxins, which have been shown to
13 increase the risk of cancer in human beings; and

14 **WHEREAS** organochlorine contaminant levels were found to be the highest in
15 farmed salmon from Europe and the lowest in wild salmon from Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** wild Alaska salmon contains omega-3 fatty acids that have numerous

1 health benefits, and wild Alaska salmon does not contain antibiotics; and

2 **WHEREAS** Americans should be informed of these health risks and benefits;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports efforts by the
4 researchers involved in the Global Assessment of Organic Contaminants in Farmed Salmon
5 study to clearly label all salmon as wild or farmed and with the place of origin; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports efforts by the
7 Alaska congressional delegation to require labeling of salmon food products as wild or farmed
8 and with the place of origin.

9 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Don Evans, United States
10 Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Ann Veneman, United States Secretary of
11 Agriculture; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S.
12 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
13 delegation in Congress.