

SENATE BILL NO. 237

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

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/18/08

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the policy for management of sustainable salmon fisheries."**

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

3 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 16.05.247. Management of sustainable salmon fisheries.** (a) The Board
5 of Fisheries and Department of Fish and Game shall adopt regulations recognizing that

6 (1) while, in the aggregate, Alaska's salmon fisheries are healthy and
7 sustainable largely because of abundant pristine habitat and the application of sound,
8 precautionary, conservation management practices, there is a need for a
9 comprehensive policy for the regulation and management of sustainable salmon
10 fisheries; and

11 (2) in formulating fishery management plans designed to achieve
12 maximum or optimum salmon production, the board and the department must consider
13 factors including environmental change, habitat loss or degradation, data uncertainty,
14 limited funding for research and management programs, existing harvest patterns, and
15 new or expanding fisheries.

1 (b) Regulations adopted under this section must ensure conservation of salmon
2 and salmon's required marine and aquatic habitats, protection of customary and
3 traditional subsistence uses and other uses, and the sustained economic health of
4 Alaska.

5 (c) Management of salmon fisheries by the state shall be based on the
6 following principles and criteria:

7 (1) wild salmon stocks and the salmon habitats shall be maintained at
8 levels of resource productivity that ensure sustained yields;

9 (2) salmon fisheries shall be managed to allow escapement within
10 ranges necessary to conserve and sustain wild salmon production and maintain normal
11 ecosystem functioning;

12 (3) diversity shall be maintained to the maximum extent possible at the
13 genetic, population, species, and ecosystem levels;

14 (4) depleted salmon stocks shall be allowed to recover or, where
15 appropriate, be actively restored;

16 (5) in the face of uncertainty, salmon stocks, fisheries, artificial
17 propagation, and essential habitats shall be managed conservatively based on a
18 precautionary approach that gives priority to conserving the reproductive potential of
19 the salmon resource.

20 (d) The principles and criteria for sustainable salmon fisheries shall be applied
21 by the board and the department using the best available information, as follows:

22 (1) effective management systems shall be established and applied to
23 regulate human activities that affect salmon;

24 (2) management plans for each fishery must contain goals and
25 measurable objectives that are derived from the principles and criteria under this
26 section and are reviewed on a regular basis;

27 (3) action plans shall be developed for stocks of concern, identified
28 based on the failure of the stocks to consistently meet prescribed escapement goals and
29 objectives, and must contain

30 (A) measurable and implementable rebuilding goals and
31 objectives;

1 (B) fishery management and habitat restoration and protection
2 measures required to restore the stock of concern; and

3 (C) a schedule of performance measures appropriate for
4 monitoring and gauging the effectiveness of the action plan;

5 (4) public support and involvement for sustained use and protection of
6 salmon resources shall be sought and encouraged in an open process.

7 (e) Nothing in the policy set out in this section is intended to expand, reduce,
8 or be inconsistent with the statutory regulatory authority of the board, the department,
9 or other state agencies with regulatory authority that affects the fishery resources of
10 the state.