

HOUSE BILL NO. 98

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES NEUMAN, Gattis

Introduced: 2/1/13

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to escapement thresholds and escapement goals for certain salmon**
2 **stocks."**

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

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

5 **Sec. 16.05.252. Salmon escapement goals.** (a) The Board of Fisheries shall
6 adopt in regulation a specific management objective for a salmon stock that the
7 department has identified as a stock of concern. The department, in consultation with
8 the board, shall set the management objective for that stock. The management
9 objective must include

10 (1) a sustained escapement threshold; and

11 (2) an escapement goal, designated as the "optimal escapement goal,"
12 that takes into consideration biological and allocative factors, and sets an escapement
13 threshold above the sustained escapement threshold.

14 (b) The department, in collaboration with the Board of Fisheries, shall set

1 escapement goals for salmon stocks. If, for two consecutive years, a salmon stock falls
2 below the escapement threshold of the escapement goal, neither the department nor the
3 Board of Fisheries may adopt in regulation an escapement goal for that stock with a
4 lower escapement threshold.

5 (c) In this section,

6 (1) "escapement goal" means a specific management objective,
7 expressed as a range, for an annual number, or weight, of a spawning salmon stock
8 arriving at a natal stream, river, or geographic area in which the salmon stock is
9 managed as a unit;

10 (2) "escapement threshold" means the lowest bound of an escapement
11 goal, expressed as an annual number, or weight, of a spawning salmon stock;

12 (3) "salmon stock" means

13 (A) a locally interbreeding group of salmon distinguished by a
14 distinct combination of genetic, phenotypic, life history, and habitat
15 characteristics; or

16 (B) an aggregation of two or more interbreeding groups that
17 occurs within the same geographic area and is managed as a unit;

18 (4) "stock of concern" means a salmon stock that, notwithstanding the
19 use of management measures, has not met the annual escapement goals for that stock
20 for four consecutive years;

21 (5) "sustained escapement threshold" means the lowest annual number,
22 or weight, of a spawning salmon stock, arriving at a natal stream, river, or geographic
23 area in which the salmon stock is managed as a unit, below which the department has
24 determined the salmon stock's ability to sustain itself is jeopardized.