

SENATE BILL NO. 69

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR OLSON

Introduced: 2/28/13

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration endowment**
2 **fund and relating to grants from the fund."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 37.14 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 7A. Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund.**

6 **Sec. 37.14.650. Fund established.** (a) The Alaska Chinook salmon research
7 and restoration endowment fund is established as a separate endowment trust fund of
8 the state consisting of

9 (1) appropriations to the fund;

10 (2) donations to the fund; and

11 (3) income earned on investments of fund assets if that income is
12 appropriated by the legislature to the fund.

13 (b) The commissioner of revenue shall manage the fund as an endowment,
14 with the goal that the purchasing power of the fund will not diminish over time

without regard to additional contributions that may be made to the fund. The commissioner shall invest the assets of the fund in a manner likely to yield at least a five percent real rate of return over time. The commissioner may comingle the assets of the fund with other public funds for purposes of investment.

(c) In carrying out the investment duties for the fund, the commissioner of revenue has the powers and duties set out in AS 37.10.071. The commissioner shall

(1) provide annual reports to the board on the condition and investment performance of the fund;

(2) maintain records for all donations to the fund; the records must reflect, for each donation, the amount of the donation, the date of the donation, and the donor's intent, if any, with respect to how the donation is to be used; and

(3) monitor use of money by the board.

(d) Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

Sec. 37.14.655. Grant account established. The Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration grant account is established as an account in the general fund.

Sec. 37.14.660. Appropriations to the grant account. (a) As soon as practicable after July 1 of each year, the commissioner of revenue shall identify as available for appropriation to the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration grant account the greater of

(1) five percent of the average of the market values of the fund on June 30 for the immediately preceding three fiscal years;

(2) one-half of the earnings of the fund as averaged annually over the immediately preceding three fiscal years; and

(3) if the principal of the fund is valued at more than \$50,000,000 based on the market value of the fund on June 30 for the immediately preceding fiscal year, the total earnings of the fund for that fiscal year.

(b) The legislature may appropriate amounts to the grant account

(1) as calculated under (a) of this section; or

(2) from any source in any amount.

Sec. 37.14.665. Use of the grant account. (a) Appropriations to the grant account established by AS 37.14.655 may be used for

(1) grants for research and restoration projects for Chinook salmon stocks located in the state, including block grants to Alaska organizations identifying and administering research and restoration projects for Chinook salmon stocks, if

(A) the project is consistent with a research and restoration plan adopted by the organization and the plan has been approved by the Department of Fish and Game; and

(B) the grant applicant provides matching funds in an amount equal to 25 percent of the grant amount;

(2) reimbursement of the Department of Revenue for the costs of establishing and managing the fund;

(3) reimbursement of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development for the costs of establishing, maintaining, and administering the board and the grant program;

(4) matching funds for private and federal grants; and

(5) solicitation of contributions for purposes consistent with establishment of the fund.

(b) The board may expend private donations for Chinook salmon research and restorations projects and other uses consistent with the purposes of the fund and in conformity with the donor's restrictions.

Sec. 37.14.670. Board established. The Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund Board is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Sec. 37.14.675. Board members. (a) The board consists of the following members appointed by the governor:

(1) the commissioner of fish and game or the commissioner's designee; and

(2) six public members, one of whom resides in each of the following regions and engages in subsistence, personal, commercial, or sport use of Chinook salmon stocks in that region:

(A) Southeast Alaska, consisting of all land and water between Cape Suckling and Dixon Entrance that are Gulf of Alaska or mainland

1 drainages; the Guyot Hills; islands in Stephens Passage and Lynn Canal;
2 Coronation Island, Kuiu Island, Kupreanof Island, Mitkof Island, Zarembo
3 Island, Kashevarof Island, Woronkofski Island, Etolin Island, Wrangell Island,
4 Deer Island, Admiralty Island, Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Yakobi
5 Island, Inian Island, Lemesurier Island, Pleasant Island; and adjacent marine
6 water and land within three miles of the coastline;

7 (B) Southcentral Alaska, consisting of all land and water in
8 those drainages south and east of the Alaska Range that drain into the Gulf of
9 Alaska, Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound between Cape Suckling and
10 Cook Inlet; the drainage between Redoubt Creek and the northern boundary of
11 Katmai National Preserve that flows into Shelikof Strait; the Chitina drainage
12 east to the Canadian border; the drainages into the Delta River upstream from
13 Falls Creek and Black Rapids Glacier; the Kodiak Archipelago and Barren
14 Islands; the drainages on the Alaska Peninsula that flow into the Gulf of
15 Alaska; and adjacent marine water and land within three miles of the coastline;

16 (C) Southwest Alaska, consisting of all land and water between
17 Kennedy Entrance and Cape Newenham that drain into Bristol Bay and the
18 Bering Sea; the drainages on the Alaska Peninsula that flow into the Bering
19 Sea; Hagemeister Island, Walrus Island, Pribilof Island, Unimak Island, and
20 Aleutian Islands; and adjacent marine water and land within three miles of the
21 coastline;

22 (D) Western Alaska, consisting of all land and water between
23 Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River near Kotlik that drain into the Bering
24 Sea from the Yukon River downstream from a straight line drawn between
25 Lower Kalskag and Kotlik; the George River drainage; the Kuskokwim River
26 drainage downstream from the George River drainage; the Holitna River
27 drainage; the Hoholitna River drainage; and adjacent marine water and land
28 within three miles of the coastline;

29 (E) Arctic Alaska, consisting of all land and water between the
30 Pastolik River near Kotlik and Harrison Bay west of the Ilkillik River drainage
31 that drain into the Arctic Ocean, the Chukchi Sea, Kotzebue Sound, or Norton

1 Sound; Saint Lawrence Island and adjacent islands; and the adjacent marine
2 water and land within three miles of the coastline;

3 (F) Interior Alaska, consisting of all land and water of the
4 Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from the George River drainage; all
5 drainages into the east bank of the Robertson River; White River drainage to
6 the Canadian border; Tozitna River drainage; Yukon River drainage upstream
7 from the Tozitna River drainage; Hamlin Creek drainage; all drainages into the
8 south bank of the Yukon River upstream from and including the Charley River
9 drainage; the Ladue River drainage; Fortymile River drainage; Tanana River
10 drainage north of the Alaska Range; and the Koyukuk River drainage.

11 (b) Members shall serve terms of five years and may be reappointed by the
12 governor.

13 **Sec. 37.14.680. Duties of the board.** (a) The Alaska Chinook Salmon
14 Research and Restoration Endowment Fund Board shall administer the grant program.

15 (b) The board shall

16 (1) within 90 days after the appointment of the seventh board member,
17 adopt bylaws governing the board's operation and identify an organization
18 incorporated in Alaska to provide clerical and administrative support to the board in
19 performing its duties;

20 (2) monitor approved projects for compliance with specific grant
21 conditions;

22 (3) keep electronic recordings of each meeting of the board to be made
23 available on request;

24 (4) adopt regulations creating a process for soliciting, awarding, and
25 monitoring research and restoration grants and ensuring peer review for grant projects;
26 the board shall consider the process and structure of the North Pacific Research Board
27 in adopting its regulations;

28 (5) award grants upon affirmative vote of the six public members; and

29 (6) provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the merits,
30 methods, and parameters of research, restoration projects, or other matters relating to
31 the board and the fund.

(c) On February 1 of each year following the calendar year grants are first awarded, the board shall prepare and submit a report to the governor and make the report available to the legislature. The report must include, for the last calendar year,

(1) the number of applicants and the number and type of grants awarded;

(2) the dollar amount of grants awarded;

(3) the research and restoration projects funded and the results of those projects;

(4) the expense to administer the fund, the grants, and the board; and

(5) the amount of private contributions, if any, to the fund and how those contributions were used.

Sec. 37.14.685. Review of grants. (a) When reviewing grant applications, the board shall give weight to the following factors:

(1) whether the Chinook salmon stocks targeted in the grant application provide a significant commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishery for Alaska residents;

(2) the importance of the Chinook salmon stocks targeted in the grant application and the fisheries those stocks support, taking into consideration the use of stocks by Alaska residents for nutritional, economic, social, and cultural well-being;

(3) whether the applicant has experience in administering research or restoration projects for Chinook salmon;

(4) recommendations of state agencies or organizations involved in Chinook salmon management in the state.

(b) The board shall give priority to grant applications for research or restoration projects targeting Chinook salmon stocks that, within the preceding 10 years,

(1) were listed by the Department of Fish and Game as stocks of concern;

(2) were the subject of a state or federal fisheries disaster declaration;

(3) were closed or significantly restricted for commercial, sport, or personal use, or restricted for subsistence uses; or

1 (4) declined significantly from historic yield levels.

2 **Sec. 37.14.695. Definitions.** In AS 37.14.650 - 37.14.695,

3 (1) "board" means the Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and
4 Restoration Endowment Fund Board established under AS 37.14.670;

5 (2) "Chinook salmon" means Alaska king salmon of the genus
6 Oncorhynchus, species tshawytscha;

7 (3) "fund" means the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration
8 endowment fund established under AS 37.14.650;

9 (4) "grant account" means the Alaska Chinook salmon research and
10 restoration grant account established under AS 37.14.655.

11 * **Sec. 2.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 TRANSITION. The governor shall appoint three members under AS 37.14.675 to an
14 initial term of three years and four members to an initial term of five years. After a member's
15 initial term has expired, appointments shall comply with AS 37.14.675(b).