

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

REPRESENTATIVES HIMSCHOOT, Story

Introduced: 1/31/25

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Sport Fishing Service Providers in**
2 **Southeast Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** sport fishing service providers work throughout the state, serving
5 thousands of sport anglers annually and contributing millions of dollars to the state's
6 economy; and

7 **WHEREAS** roughly half of the sport fishing service providers active in the state
8 practice their trade in the water of Southeast Alaska between Cape Suckling and Dixon
9 Entrance; and

10 **WHEREAS** the state's sport fishing service industry continues to grow, and further
11 unmanaged growth could lead to reduced economic viability for participants and increased
12 resource competition and tension between sport fishing service providers and other user
13 groups over the state's fishery resources; and

14 **WHEREAS**, because of the concentration of sport fishing service providers in
15 Southeast Alaska, problems related to the industry's growth are likely to first emerge or
16 intensify in Southeast Alaska; and

1 **WHEREAS** long-term stability in the sport fishing service industry is a goal shared
2 by sport fishermen, sport fishing service providers, other fishery resource user groups, and the
3 residents of the state; and

4 **WHEREAS** international agreements, pressures on fishery resources, and stock
5 variability can lead to onerous catch restrictions for all user groups; and

6 **WHEREAS** sport fishing service providers and others have for many years sought to
7 facilitate sustainable participation in the sport fishing service industry to protect fishery
8 resources and the economic health and viability of the industry, minimize conflicts with other
9 fishery user groups, and retain an angler experience unique to the state; and

10 **WHEREAS** art. VIII, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska, allows the state to
11 limit entry into a fishery for purposes including resource conservation and "to prevent
12 economic distress among fishermen and those dependent upon them for a livelihood"; and

13 **WHEREAS** the legislature desires to bring together knowledgeable representatives of
14 the sport fishing service industry active in Southeast Alaska, other fishery resource user
15 groups from affected communities, and state and tribal governments to collaboratively
16 explore options and workable approaches for managing entry into the state's sport fishing
17 service industry, supporting the long-term economic prospects of that industry, safeguarding
18 the state's fishery resources, and minimizing conflicts with other fishery resource user groups;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, while the legislature has determined that changes to the regulation of
21 sport fishing service providers across the state are likely necessary, it is in the best interests of
22 the state, the public, and sport fishing service providers to first limit changes to a single region
23 of the state before the state implements statewide changes; and

24 **WHEREAS** the legislature has determined that the area between Cape Suckling and
25 Dixon Entrance is appropriate for the initial consideration of regulatory changes;

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Joint Legislative
27 Task Force on Sport Fishing Service Providers in Southeast Alaska; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include

29 (1) examining the history of the sport fishing service industry in the state and
30 Southeast Alaska;

31 (2) advising the legislature on how the state can best manage participation in

1 the sport fishing service industry;

2 (3) evaluating the feasibility of and best potential approaches for

3 (A) managing entry into the sport fishing service industry in the state,
4 including establishing different categories of permits for sport fishing service
5 providers and standards for permit eligibility and the transfer of permits; and

6 (B) establishing a managed entry system for the sport fishing services
7 industry that allows permits to be transferred in a manner that benefits the state;

8 (4) addressing those challenges in the sport fishing service industry that may
9 be solved or improved through state action, collaboration with other resource user groups, or
10 united action by those active in the industry; and

11 (5) identifying potential sources of funding that could be used to implement
12 recommendations from the task force; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force consists of 12 members as follows:

14 (1) one member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

15 (2) one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of
16 the house of representatives;

17 (3) 10 members appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the
18 speaker of the house of representatives as follows:

19 (A) one member of the Board of Fisheries;

20 (B) one member of the public who is a tribal citizen or a leader of a
21 Native corporation under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement
22 Act) or other tribal organization and who lives in an area of Southeast Alaska in which
23 sport fishing services occur;

24 (C) one member of the public who is a self-guided fishing operator in
25 Southeast Alaska with previous policy experience;

26 (D) three members of the public recommended by the Southeast
27 Alaska Guides Organization;

28 (E) two members of the public who possess relevant experience and
29 currently represent the interests of the sport fishing service industry on Southeast
30 Alaska advisory committees established under AS 16.05.260; and

31 (F) two members of the public from Southeast Alaska with commercial

1 fishing and policy experience; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that

3 (1) the task force may meet between and during legislative sessions;

4 (2) a majority of the members of the task force constitute a quorum;

5 (3) a vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the
6 original selection or appointment;

7 (4) the legislative members of the task force shall serve as co-chairs;

8 (5) the task force shall meet at the call of one of the co-chairs;

9 (6) the co-chair who is a member of the house of representatives shall call the
10 first meeting;

11 (7) the staff of the legislative members of the task force shall serve as staff for
12 the task force;

13 (8) the task force may request support from the Legislative Affairs Agency,
14 the Department of Fish and Game, and the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; and

15 (9) members of the public on the task force serve without compensation but
16 are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under
17 AS 39.20.180; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall submit a report of findings and
19 recommendations to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives by
20 January 20, 2026, and notify the legislature that the report is available; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force expires on May 21, 2026.