

1. IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR ENGSTROM

2. SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9

3. IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4. TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

5. TO THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS MCKAY, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; TO

6. THE HONORABLE ALBERT M. DAY, DIRECTOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE;

7. AND TO THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM

8. ALASKA:

9. Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of  
10. Alaska, in Twenty-first regular session assembled, respectfully  
11. submits that:

12. WHEREAS, the catch of herring in Southeastern Alaska has  
13. been subnormal since 1939, except for a mild resurgence in the  
14. period 1945-1947, despite an intensive desire and effort on the  
15. part of the reduction industry to achieve profitable volume; and

16. WHEREAS, virtually all known herring grounds in Southeastern  
17. Alaska have ceased to be productive in recent years and the  
18. species has become obviously scarce; and

19. WHEREAS, herring seiners have extended their fishing range  
20. to new and unusual grounds but have been unsuccessful in  
21. locating adequate supplies anywhere in Southeastern Alaska  
22. during the normal, summer operating season; and

23. WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Service during the current  
24. season has conducted exploratory fishing for herring with its  
25. own research vessel JOHN N. COBB and, by an unusual relaxation  
26. of the regulations, has permitted and encouraged commercial  
27. search by fishing vessels; and

28. WHEREAS, this testing of winter potentialities, previously  
29. untried, has also failed to locate any substantial supply; and

1. WHEREAS, there are numerous examples of seiners having  
2. annihilated local populations of herring through over-intensive  
3. fishing, populations which have never recovered sufficiently to  
4. again contribute to support of the industry; and

5. WHEREAS, on many other occasions fishing disturbance has  
6. dissipated schools on regular feeding ground; and

7. WHEREAS, herring is one of the most important food species  
8. for salmon, probably necessary to sustain their volume and  
9. certainly necessary to attract them to accessible trolling  
10. grounds where salmon fishermen can catch them; and

11. WHEREAS, the herring industry contributes virtually nothing  
12. to the economy of Alaska while salmon are the Territory's  
13. principal sustaining resource; and

14. WHEREAS, there is grave risk of destroying herring as a  
15. commercially significant natural resource and of dislocating and  
16. rendering uneconomical the important salmon trolling industry;

17. NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the  
18. Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first session assembled,  
19. respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Interior and the  
20. Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service prohibit fishing for  
21. herring for reduction purposes in Southeastern Alaska immediately  
22. and until such time as the supply recovers its previous abundance.

23. AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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