

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATORS BARNES AND NOLAN

2 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 13

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS MCKAY, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; TO
6 THE HONORABLE JOHN L. FARLEY, 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 Alaska,
10 in Twenty-second Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits
11 that:

12 WHEREAS, the catch of herring in Southeastern Alaska has
13 been subnormal since 1938, 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 generally scarce; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on many occasions fishing disturbance has dissipated schools on regular feeding ground; and

WHEREAS, herring is one of the most important food species for king and coho salmon, possibly necessary to sustain their volume and certainly necessary to attract and hold them on accessible trolling grounds where salmon fishermen can catch them; and

WHEREAS, herring, as an industry, contributes virtually nothing to the economy of Alaska while salmon is the Territory's principal sustaining resource; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread apprehension that herring may be prevented or unduly delayed in regaining its status as a commercially significant natural resource with consequent dislocation and diminution of the important salmon trolling industry; and

WHEREAS, the well-advised restriction applied during 1954 in the form of a catch quota of 50,000 bbls. is being prematurely and dangerously relaxed by doubling the allowable limit for 1955;

NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-second Regular Session assembled, respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service return to and maintain the 50,000 bbl. allowable annual take of herring for reduction purposes in Southeastern Alaska until such time as the supply recovers its previous and natural abundance.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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