

Introduced: 3/26/70
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the development of a joint
6 federal and state fish and wildlife
7 management plan for Bristol Bay, Alaska.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS the Estuary Protection Act (P. L. 90-454) provides that certain
10 estuarine areas may be managed, developed, and administered by an agreement
11 between the Secretary of the Interior and a state or other political sub-
12 division with approval of the governor; and

13 WHEREAS estuaries are a necessary link in the ecosystem that produces
14 shrimp, crab, and most of our sport and commercial fisheries, as well as
15 being vital for production of waterfowl and other wildlife; and

16 WHEREAS Bristol Bay is an estuary of international significance for its
17 fish and wildlife resources, being the world's most important sockeye salmon
18 producing area with annual runs of sockeye salmon in some years exceeding
19 50 million fish and providing a harvest worth over \$20 million to the
20 fishermen; and

21 WHEREAS Bristol Bay is one of the world's most important intercontinen-
22 tal staging areas for migrating waterfowl, where millions of ducks, geese,
23 shorebirds, and colonial seabirds feed, rest, and nest; and

24 WHEREAS Bristol Bay populations of marine mammals such as fur seals,
25 sea lions, sea otters, whales, and walrus are abundant and in some cases
26 unique, as is the group of walrus inhabiting the protected Walrus Islands;
27 and

28 WHEREAS Bristol Bay has great potential for commercial development of
29 many species of fish and shellfish, including pink shrimp, king and tanner

1 crab, flounder and rockfish, that all will be a source of food and income
2 for future generations; and

3 WHEREAS, because of the extremely high values of fish, wildlife and
4 waterfowl dependent on Bristol Bay, a meaningful management plan is essential,
5 requiring the cooperation of both state and federal agencies since waters
6 under the jurisdiction of each are involved;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth Alaska State Legislature respectfully
8 requests the Governor to direct the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
9 the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to cooperate with the Secretary
10 of the Interior, through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to develop a
11 management plan for Bristol Bay, so that both state and federal agencies
12 will manage Bristol Bay primarily for the conservation, development and wise
13 use of fish and wildlife; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that after approval by the Department of the Interior,
15 the Bristol Bay management plan serve as a basis for an agreement between
16 the appropriate state agencies and the Secretary of the Interior to establish
17 Bristol Bay as a National Estuary, with management following the outline of
18 the jointly developed management plan.

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