

Introduced: 4/3/72
Referred: Rules

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the establishment of a
6 comprehensive salmon rehabilitation
7 and restoration program in the
8 Cook Inlet watershed.

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

10 WHEREAS increasing numbers of both sport and commercial fishermen are
11 subjecting the Cook Inlet salmon stocks to severe pressures both in the
12 spawning streams and in salt water, making the Cook Inlet watershed the most
13 heavily utilized salmon fishery in the state; and

14 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Fish and Game, the Cook Inlet
15 salmon stocks have sustained a drastic decline due to intensity of use; and

16 WHEREAS techniques have become available for greatly enhancing the
17 productivity of the natural spawning grounds and rearing areas; and

18 WHEREAS the Bear Lake project near Seward demonstrated that enhancement
19 projects can show a return from the first year's spawning of \$10 for each \$1
20 spent; and

21 WHEREAS the Upper Susitna Basin may offer a potential salmon rearing
22 system rivaling in magnitude the Bristol Bay runs if the Devils Canyon Falls
23 can be surmounted; and

24 WHEREAS no inventory of the fresh water spawning and rearing areas of
25 the Cook Inlet watershed has ever been conducted, even though the Commissioner
26 of Fish and Game has stated that such an inventory is badly needed, and
27 therefore the potential for development is unknown; and

28 WHEREAS such an inventory would be the fundamental basis on which to
29 build an areawide program for increased production;

1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct
2 the Commissioner of Fish and Game to designate the Cook Inlet watershed as
3 a pilot project to be used in determining the effectiveness of a compre-
4 hensive program utilizing all feasible techniques for increasing salmon pro-
5 duction, which will include (1) the preparation, in 1972, by the Department
6 of Fish and Game of a comprehensive inventory of the fresh water streams
7 and lakes of the Cook Inlet watershed; and (2) a detailed plan, including
8 but not limited to, lake rehabilitation, stream clearance, aluminum steep
9 pass, gravel incubators, and salt water rearing techniques for increasing
10 salmon production from the Cook Inlet watershed to the level of maximum
11 sustained yield; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game submit a progress
13 report to the First Session of the Eighth Legislature within the first 30
14 days of the legislative session; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that additional funds be allocated for the above
16 purposes, so that other fisheries throughout the state that are pressed for
17 adequate funding will not be deprived of the funds necessary to sustain
18 their present programs.
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