

Introduced: 3/29/73
Referred: Resources and
Judiciary

BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the 1973 Bristol Bay
6 fishery.

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

8 WHEREAS the major objection to a high seas salmon fishery is the in-
9 ability to segregate salmon runs by geographical destination until these runs
10 are in close proximity to their spawning grounds; and

11 WHEREAS this inability to segregate precludes sound management practices
12 due to the intermingling of runs of different geographical destination until
13 proximity to spawning grounds is reached; and

14 WHEREAS severe damage may unknowingly be inflicted on a weak run when
15 fished out of the proximity of geographical destination; and

16 WHEREAS in recognition of this the United States has barred high seas
17 salmon fishing with regard to United States citizens; and

18 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has attempted to manage salmon as close to
19 the spawning grounds as possible in order to allow self-segregation of the
20 fish before harvesting; and

21 WHEREAS there exists during the month of June a highly developed fishery
22 in the False Pass area which directly contravenes this policy since it is
23 conducted on intermingled stocks of salmon destined for the various river
24 systems of the Bristol Bay area and the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area; and

25 WHEREAS the Sixth Legislature requested the Board of Fish and Game to
26 adopt regulations imposing at least the same restraints on the fishery on
27 mixed Bristol Bay stocks in the Alaska Peninsula area as are imposed in
28 Bristol Bay, but without significant response; and

29 WHEREAS the predicted return of salmon to Bristol Bay during 1973 is of

1 disaster proportions, being below the number required for adequate escapement
2 in certain river systems and fishing time in many Bristol Bay districts will
3 be nonexistent during the peak of the red salmon run; and

4 WHEREAS similar mixed-stock salmon net fisheries exist elsewhere in the
5 state in the face of strong scientific evidence pointing to their undesir-
6 ability;

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature that the Board of Fish and Game
8 promulgate regulations which will accomplish the phasing out of net fisheries
9 on intermingled salmon stocks wherever they occur throughout the state and
10 where said stocks can be adequately harvested in an orderly manner after
11 segregation has occurred; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board is requested to see that Bristol Bay
13 stocks be accorded protection and relief from mixed-stock fisheries within
14 territorial waters without further delay.