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Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HAUGEN

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8 *am*
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the establishment of a task
6 force to study legislative solutions to
7 anticipated conflicts between interests
8 desiring successful management of hatchery
9 and wild stocks of salmon.

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

11 WHEREAS the nonprofit salmon hatchery program was established by the
12 Legislature in 1974; and

13 WHEREAS the express legislative intent was to ". . .authorize the pri-
14 vate ownership of salmon hatcheries by qualified nonprofit corporations for
15 the purpose of contributing, by artificial means, to the rehabilitation of
16 the state's depleted and depressed salmon fishery. . ."; and

17 WHEREAS the program is to be administered in a manner ". . .without
18 adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state. . ." and in a manner
19 ". . .which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon
20 from naturally occurring stocks"; and

21 WHEREAS the nonprofit salmon hatchery program was subsequently amended
22 in 1976 to allow for the creation of regional associations for the purpose of
23 salmon fishery enhancement and gives qualified associations preference to
24 hatchery permits from the Department of Fish and Game; and

25 WHEREAS the state can make loans to regional hatchery associations in
26 the amount of \$3,000,000 maximum per loan to regional associations and
27 \$300,000 maximum per loan to other hatchery permit holders; and

28 WHEREAS the voters of Alaska approved the construction of state-owned
29 hatchery and rearing facilities in the amount of \$24,565,000 in the 1976

1 general election; and

2 WHEREAS these state-owned facilities will be located in Southeastern
3 Alaska, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Prince William Sound, and the Alaska Interior;
4 and

5 WHEREAS the locations of these state-owned hatchery facilities are in
6 the general proximity of present and potential future private nonprofit
7 salmon hatchery facilities; and

8 WHEREAS both the state and private hatchery facilities will release
9 salmon into the common property fishery; and

10 WHEREAS private hatchery fish will be subject to the common property
11 fishery along with the naturally occurring salmon runs in Alaska; and

12 WHEREAS it is the stated policy of the Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game that "(i)f complexities arise in managing mixed stocks, including both
14 hatchery fish and wild fish, it will be state policy to manage the collective
15 resource in a manner that favors protection of the wild stocks."; and

16 WHEREAS the proper management of this multi-stock fishery is of vital
17 importance to the people of Alaska in light of the importance of the salmon
18 fishery to the economic welfare of a significant portion of the state's
19 population;

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the State of Alaska
21 be committed to a fisheries management policy that encourages and promotes
22 the coexistence of healthy hatchery and wild stocks of salmon, including but
23 not limited to the following courses of action:

24 (1) The state Department of Fish and Game shall reassess and
25 closely examine the implications presented by the creation of a multi-stock
26 salmon fishery.

27 (2) The state Department of Fish and Game shall initiate planning
28 to meet the potentially conflicting interests arising from the necessarily
29 indiscriminate taking of artificially enhanced hatchery stocks and wild

1 salmon stocks so that the wild stocks are adequately protected.

2 (3) The legislature shall establish a task force consisting of two
3 members who shall be members of the house of representatives and appointed by
4 the speaker; two members who shall be members of the senate and appointed by
5 the president; and two members who shall be appointed by the governor; one of
6 the members appointed by the governor shall be authorized to act as a spokes-
7 man for the Department of Fish and Game. The task force shall be responsible
8 for

9 (A) the study of legislative options for implementing the
10 policies enunciated in this resolution; and

11 (B) the study of the economic implications of the private
12 nonprofit hatchery program with due consideration given to the policies
13 enunciated in this resolution using accepted methods of socio-economic
14 analysis; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and
16 recommendations to the Second Session, Tenth Legislature.