

Introduced: 2/18/80  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MALONE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the governor to suspend  
6 the issuance of grants and loans for  
7 fisheries enhancement.

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

9 WHEREAS AS 16.10.380 allows for the creation of regional associations  
10 for the purpose of enhancing salmon production; and

11 WHEREAS AS 16.10.505 establishes the fisheries enhancement revolving  
12 loan fund; and

13 WHEREAS AS 16.10.520 requires that loans made to qualified regional  
14 associations be secured by collateral satisfactory to the commissioner of  
15 commerce and economic development and provides that the collateral may  
16 include assessments from fishermen on the sale of surplus hatchery fish; and

17 WHEREAS AS 16.10.530 provides for the levy of assessments on the sale of  
18 salmon and states that the assessments are for the purpose of providing  
19 revenue for qualified regional associations; and

20 WHEREAS AS 16.10.540 provides for voluntary assessments to be levied and  
21 collected from regional association members to be used for securing and  
22 repaying a fisheries enhancement loan; and

23 WHEREAS there currently exist five regional associations which have  
24 qualified to receive state grants and loans from the fisheries enhancement  
25 revolving loan fund; and

26 WHEREAS the five qualified regional associations have so far received  
27 \$900,000 in grants; and

28 WHEREAS two of the five qualified regional associations have received a  
29 total of \$5,950,000 from the loan fund; and

1       WHEREAS other groups are currently seeking recognition as qualified  
2 regional associations; and

3       WHEREAS of the five qualified regional associations, one has a voluntary  
4 assessment of fishermen, three have mandatory assessments, and one has no  
5 assessment; and

6       WHEREAS mandatory assessments were declared unconstitutional by Superior  
7 Court Judge Allen T. Compton on July 13, 1979; and

8       WHEREAS the mechanism of cost recovery through hatchery harvest and sale  
9 of surplus fish is experimental at this time; and

10       WHEREAS it is unknown at this time whether voluntary assessments will  
11 provide adequate collateral for the construction and operation of hatcheries  
12 and enhancement activities;

13       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the governor  
14 to initiate a moratorium on the issuance of grants to any existing or newly  
15 organized regional aquaculture associations; and be it

16       FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor initiate a moratorium on the issuance  
17 of loans from the fishery enhancement revolving loan fund to regional aqua-  
18 culture associations until the legislature is satisfied that the assessment  
19 question is settled and that the associations have sufficient collateral to  
20 secure loans.

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