

Introduced: 2/25/81
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ELIASON

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to hand trolling.

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

7 WHEREAS the Board of Fisheries has recently amended 5 AAC 39.270(a)(3)
8 to allow hand trollers to use no more than four fishing rods, or, in the
9 alternative, one hand troll gurdy and one fishing rod, unless the board
10 finds, in the course of the year that the hand troll catch is small enough
11 to allow the use of two hand troll gurdies for the remainder of the year;
12 and

13 WHEREAS the purpose of the regulation is to keep the percentage of fish
14 caught by hand trollers at 20 percent of the fish caught with troll gear;
15 and

16 WHEREAS adoption of the regulation is premature since the regulations
17 on gear that were formerly in effect and other factors have contributed to a
18 reduction in the number of hand trollers actively participating in the
19 fishery over the last several seasons, resulting in a progressive lowering
20 of the percentage of the troll catch taken by hand trollers toward the
21 desired 20 percent; and

22 WHEREAS the regulation will not permit hand trollers to catch enough
23 fish to pay the ever-rising operating costs of their vessels and they may be
24 forced to fish in areas and weather conditions which are not safe for their
25 vessels; and

26 WHEREAS limited entry into the hand troll fishery which is being imple-
27 mented for the first time this year may have some effect toward the achieve-
28 ment of the purpose of the regulation; and

29 WHEREAS the regulation is unnecessary since the Board of Fisheries can

1 act to preserve fish stocks in the event of overfishing by ordering emergency
2 time and area closures during the season; and

3 WHEREAS the regulations on gear formerly in effect were not adequately
4 enforced, but if they had been, the purposes of the limitation on gear may
5 very well have been achieved; and

6 WHEREAS the regulation affects not only those who engage in hand
7 trolling as a "lifestyle fishery" but also those who are dependent on hand
8 trolling as their primary or only available source of livelihood; and

9 WHEREAS there may be management methods which were not fully considered
10 by the board but which would achieve the purposes of the regulation without
11 deleterious impacts on hand trollers; and

12 WHEREAS, due to the widespread dissatisfaction with the regulation and
13 the potential hardship it may cause hand trollers, reconsideration is
14 warranted; and

15 WHEREAS the legislature considers that fisheries management decisions
16 are properly the province of the Board of Fisheries and should not be deter-
17 mined by statute;

18 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
19 the Board of Fisheries to address these concerns and to reconsider its
20 amendment to 5 AAC 39.270(a)(3).