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Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

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2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the gathering and evalua-
6 tion of comprehensive information
7 about salmon stocks in the Arctic-
8 Yukon-Kuskokwim management area.

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

10 WHEREAS the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (A-Y-K) fisheries management area
11 contains all the interior river systems and the drainages of the Bering Sea
12 and Arctic Ocean north of the Alaska Range and the Bristol Bay drainage from
13 Cape Newenham to Demarcation Point at the Canadian Border, and includes not
14 only coastal gillnet fisheries but also freshwater seine, gillnet, and
15 fishwheel fisheries that provide a primary source of food and income for
16 many Alaskans; and

17 WHEREAS the geographic nature of the A-Y-K management area and the
18 rapid expansion of the commercial fisheries in that region dictate complex
19 management and allocation concerns and issues for the Department of Fish and
20 Game and the Board of Fisheries, particularly those issues and concerns
21 stemming from interception of salmon in mixed stock fisheries along the
22 fresh and saltwater migration routes; and

23 WHEREAS foreign fleets are currently intercepting western Alaska salmon
24 in the Bering Sea Japanese mothership gillnet fishery, the Bering Sea-
25 Aleutian Islands groundfish trawl fishery, the Gulf of Alaska groundfish
26 trawl fishery, and the Japanese land-based fishery; and

27 WHEREAS recent reports show that the Japanese mothership fishery alone
28 intercepted 388,000 western Alaska chinook salmon in 1980, as contrasted
29 with interception of 65,000 in 1979; and

1 WHEREAS the biological and economic ramifications in the A-Y-K manage-
2 ment area stemming from the mixed stock interception fisheries and from the
3 foreign interception of western Alaska salmon can be better evaluated if the
4 Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fisheries are granted the
5 opportunity to complete the gathering and evaluation of necessary comprehen-
6 sive information regarding salmon stock identification, enumeration, separa-
7 tion, migration patterns and run timing, escapement, and smolt outmigration;
8 and

9 WHEREAS the social ramifications stemming from resource allocations
10 among user groups and gear types in mixed stock interception fisheries in
11 the A-Y-K management area and from the diminished subsistence and commercial
12 opportunities occasioned by the foreign interception of western Alaska
13 salmon can be ameliorated by improved in-season management by the Department
14 of Fish and Game which is dependent on comprehensive information about the
15 salmon stocks in the A-Y-K management area;

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
17 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Fish and Game to gather
18 comprehensive information regarding the identification, enumeration, separa-
19 tion, migration patterns and run timing, escapement, and smolt outmigration
20 of all salmon stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim management area; and be
21 it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game initiate the
23 gathering of comprehensive information regarding the biological effects upon
24 salmon stock escapement in streams of origin by the foreign interception of
25 salmon bound for western Alaska; and be it

26 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of
27 Fisheries initiate and complete a comprehensive evaluation of the information
28 known and to be gathered, and to present to the legislature each year, not
29 later than 10 days after the convening of each session, a report identifying

1 any gaps in information and the success of in-season management in alleviat-
2 ing resource user and gear conflicts, and recommending appropriate action.

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