

Original sponsor: Resources Committee

Offered: 3/3/82
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the Southeastern Alaska
6 troll fishery.

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

8 WHEREAS salmon trolling constitutes a major portion of the economic
9 activity of Southeastern Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS the Board of Fisheries determines the time, place, and manner
11 that trollers may take salmon in Alaska waters based on the best available
12 biological data furnished by the Department of Fish and Game; and

13 WHEREAS the United States Secretary of Commerce determines the time,
14 place, and manner that trollers may take salmon in the fisheries conservation
15 zone based on the best available biological data furnished by the Department
16 of Fish and Game; and

17 WHEREAS the biological data furnished by the Department of Fish and Game
18 should determine the number of fish that may be harvested in any one year
19 without diminishing the number of fish that will be available to harvest in
20 future years; and

21 WHEREAS the Department of Fish and Game may not furnish data on the
22 methods it uses to collect the biological data it furnishes; and

23 WHEREAS complete data regarding salmon returns and salmon runs is not
24 available, there is no single compendium of what data is available and what
25 is missing, some of the data is interpolated, and these interpolations are
26 not always clearly identified; and

27 WHEREAS the regulatory measures of the Board of Fisheries are imposed
28 based on incomplete biological data; and

29 WHEREAS the regulatory measures of the Board of Fisheries that are not

1 based on complete data may increase fishing pressure on specific stocks and
2 may be adverse to the conservation of the resource; and

3 WHEREAS the regulatory measures of the Board of Fisheries are imposed
4 without using complete information regarding, or consideration of, the
5 effects of regulatory measures used in the past; and

6 WHEREAS the Department of Fish and Game currently employs the best
7 available data when conducting research on and managing the troll fishery but
8 it is recognized that this data is limited due to the short period of intense
9 management of the fishery and the very complex nature of the mixed stocks of
10 salmon on which the fishery depends;

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
12 requests the governor to direct the commissioner of fish and game to conduct
13 a complete investigation, and evaluation of, the research methodology and
14 validity of the statistics used in fisheries resource management for the
15 troll fishery in Southeastern Alaska and to report his findings to the
16 legislature at the beginning of the First Session of the Thirteenth Legisla-
17 ture, along with a proposal to rectify any shortcomings that are identified.