

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to protection and preservation
6 of the Kenai River.

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

8 WHEREAS the legislature finds that the Kenai River is an important
9 natural resource and that it must be protected and preserved for the maxi-
10 mum benefit of all Alaskans; and

11 WHEREAS the vitality of the Kenai River is threatened; power boat
12 wakes and streambank development have contributed to the erosion of river
13 banks and degradation of fish beds; increased user traffic on the river
14 endangers fish and wildlife habitats; competition among sportfishers,
15 professional guides, and persons who use the river for recreation and
16 transportation creates overcrowded, hazardous, and unpleasant conditions;
17 and

18 WHEREAS a multitude of state and federal agencies with jurisdiction
19 over various aspects of the Kenai River have created a labyrinth of regu-
20 lations without effectively preventing the deterioration of the river; and

21 WHEREAS a need exists for an interagency effort to make a comprehen-
22 sive study of the problems of the Kenai River, to recommend a coordinated
23 approach to solving those problems, and to take emergency action necessary
24 to deal with the most immediate problems of the river;

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
26 the governor to organize through the governor's office representatives from
27 the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game, Natural
28 Resources, and Public Safety who shall

29 (1) solicit and consider information from federal agencies,

1 local governments, industries, landowners, persons engaged in fishing, and
2 other who have an interest in the Kenai River;

3 (2) make a comprehensive study of state and federal laws affect-
4 ing the Kenai River, users of the river, land adjacent to the river, and
5 fish and wildlife resources dependent on the river;

6 (3) identify areas of overlapping or conflicting jurisdiction
7 among state and federal agencies that have jurisdiction over the Kenai
8 River;

9 (4) identify Kenai River problems over which no agency has
10 jurisdiction;

11 (5) publish a list of priorities for the uses of the Kenai
12 River;

13 (6) recommend, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner,
14 regulations to be adopted or actions to be taken by state and federal
15 agencies to address the problems of the Kenai River; and

16 (7) report the findings and recommendations to the Second Ses-
17 sion of the Thirteenth Alaska State Legislature; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Environmental Conservation,
19 Fish and Game, Natural Resources, and Public Safety are respectfully re-
20 quested to adopt regulations, including emergency regulations, to correct
21 the immediate problems on the Kenai River.