

Original sponsors: Sund, Grussendorf,  
Goll, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the Pacific Salmon Commission  
6 to increase Alaska's chinook salmon  
7 quota.

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

9 WHEREAS the abundance of chinook salmon in southeast Alaska waters has  
10 significantly exceeded the population-rebuilding projections of the United  
11 States-Canada Salmon Treaty; and

12 WHEREAS the southeast Alaska chinook salmon quota is based on these  
13 1984 projections, which do not reflect the current abundance of chinook  
14 salmon; and

15 WHEREAS southeast Alaska has suffered substantial economic losses  
16 under treaty harvest quotas; and

17 WHEREAS area closures for chinook salmon have had disastrous economic  
18 effects on many southeast Alaska communities; and

19 WHEREAS each chinook salmon is worth \$60 to \$150 to a fisherman; and

20 WHEREAS staying within the quota imposes an unfair amount of social  
21 and economic loss to Alaska not experienced by other parties involved in  
22 the United States-Canada Salmon Treaty; and

23 WHEREAS the harvests of far-north migrating chinook salmon stocks in  
24 some Washington and Oregon fisheries has increased substantially, many  
25 above treaty levels; and

26 WHEREAS these Washington and Oregon stocks, which contribute to  
27 Alaska's salmon fisheries, are considerably above the treaty escapement  
28 goals, some by as much as 300 percent; and

29 WHEREAS the southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll season has

1 been reduced from 169 days in 1979 to only 23 days in 1987; and

2 WHEREAS reductions in the Southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll  
3 season first occurred in 1980 as part of the chinook salmon rebuilding  
4 program; and

5 WHEREAS treaty agreements have shortened the southeast Alaska troll  
6 season so much that Alaskan hatchery fish cannot be harvested to the level  
7 promised; and

8 WHEREAS longer seasons benefit the southeast Alaska fishing industry  
9 by ensuring higher quality fish products and higher market prices; and

10 WHEREAS a fair increase in the southeast Alaska chinook salmon harvest  
11 quota will not jeopardize the natural stock rebuilding program;

12 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
13 the United States section of the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon  
14 Commission to work to substantially increase the chinook quota for Alaska.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Steve Cowper,  
16 Governor of the State of Alaska; and to Don Collinsworth, Alaska Commis-  
17 sioner, Pacific Salmon Commission.