

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ULMER, GOLL, GRUSSENDORF  
AND HUDSON

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST 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 chinook salmon fisheries were placed under a quota in 1985 by  
10 the Pacific Salmon Commission to rebuild depressed chinook salmon stocks  
11 coastwide by 1998; and

12 WHEREAS chinook salmon stocks subject to the quota in Southeast  
13 Alaska, for which Alaska shares management responsibility, are responding  
14 far better than anticipated at this early date; indicator chinook salmon  
15 stocks meeting escapement goals have increased from 8 percent in 1982 to 42  
16 percent in 1987, and in 1987 79 percent of indicator chinook salmon stocks  
17 showed increased escapement; and

18 WHEREAS the abundance of chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska waters has  
19 significantly exceeded the population-rebuilding projections of the United  
20 States-Canada Salmon Treaty, increasing during the 1988 season to 108  
21 percent above the 1986 catch rate; and

22 WHEREAS all economic sectors in Southeast Alaska have suffered sub-  
23 stantial economic declines under chinook salmon harvest quotas; and

24 WHEREAS the Southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll season has  
25 been reduced from 169 days in 1979 to only 12 in 1988; and

26 WHEREAS longer seasons benefit the Southeast Alaska fishing industry  
27 by ensuring higher quality fish products and higher market prices; and

28 WHEREAS processors are losing markets for chinook salmon and are  
29 unable to fill orders due to such short fishing seasons; and

1       WHEREAS the shortened season results in area closures for chinook  
2 salmon fisheries and in disastrous economic effects on specific Southeast  
3 Alaska communities; and

4       WHEREAS treaty agreements have shortened the Southeast Alaska troll  
5 season so much that Alaskan hatchery fish cannot be harvested at the rate  
6 anticipated; and

7       WHEREAS the fishermen of Canada and the States of Washington and  
8 Oregon have enjoyed increased harvests in some of the fisheries harvesting  
9 the same chinook salmon stocks taken in Alaska, in many cases by exceeding  
10 levels set by the treaty and in some cases through increased federal  
11 hatchery production of chinook salmon, there has not been any increase in  
12 the chinook salmon quota in Alaska; and

13       WHEREAS the Southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll season was  
14 initially reduced by the state in 1980 prior to treaty implementation so  
15 that Alaska has contributed disproportionately more to the coastwide re-  
16 building program; and

17       WHEREAS a fair increase in the Southeast Alaska chinook salmon harvest  
18 quota can be allowed in order to lengthen the chinook salmon fishing season  
19 and soften the adverse socio-economic effects without jeopardizing the 1998  
20 goal for the natural stock rebuilding program by focusing on stocks that  
21 are rebuilding faster than anticipated, including hatchery stocks, thus  
22 allowing benefits of the rebuilding program to be taken now rather than  
23 accelerating the rebuilding program;

24       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
25 the United States section of the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon  
26 Commission to work, at its February 1989 meeting, to substantially increase  
27 the chinook salmon quota for Alaska in order to allow Alaska to share in  
28 the increased abundance and harvest of chinook salmon.

29       A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to Don Collinsworth,

1 Commissioner, Pacific Salmon Commission.