

Original sponsor(s): Rules Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 92 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to subsistence use and commer-  
6 cial fishing in Glacier Bay National  
7 Park.

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

9 WHEREAS the National Park Service is currently addressing the issue of  
10 subsistence use and commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park (Park)  
11 and is considering the status of subsistence use and commercial fishing in  
12 the park; and

13 WHEREAS subsistence use and commercial fishing have occurred in the  
14 Park since before it was established as a national monument in 1925 up to  
15 the present day; and

16 WHEREAS the National Park Service currently does not recognize the  
17 right of residents of Hoonah and other local communities to use the area  
18 now included in the Park for subsistence use, as their ancestors had done  
19 for generations; and

20 WHEREAS the prohibition of subsistence use and commercial fishing in  
21 the Park would have disastrous and widespread economic and social conse-  
22 quences for fishers of northern Southeast Alaska and the communities in  
23 which they reside; and

24 WHEREAS the continued subsistence and commercial use of fisheries  
25 resources within the navigable waters of the Park is desirable and is  
26 environmentally compatible with the purposes of the Park; and

27 WHEREAS the harvest of fisheries resources in the Park is conserva-  
28 tively managed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department  
29 of Fish and Game to promote the sustained health of the fish stocks; and

1       WHEREAS migratory species of fish that do not originate in the Park  
2 constitute the majority of the fish harvested within the Park; a signifi-  
3 cant portion of the salmon harvested in the Park is the result of salmon  
4 enhancement and rehabilitation efforts by the State of Alaska, private  
5 nonprofit aquaculture associations, and hatcheries in Washington, Oregon,  
6 and British Columbia; and

7       WHEREAS the National Park Service must administer the Park subject to  
8 existing rights, statutes, and regulations; and

9       WHEREAS National Park Service regulations specifically provide for  
10 commercial sport fishing activities and for the use of large tour ships  
11 within the Park; and

12       WHEREAS the State of Alaska has a claim to ownership of the submerged  
13 lands and navigable waters of the Park; and

14       WHEREAS the State of Alaska exercises management authority over  
15 natural resources of the Park, provided that the state does not interfere  
16 with the purposes for which the Park and wilderness areas within the Park  
17 were established; and

18       WHEREAS issues relating to state and federal jurisdiction in the Park  
19 have not been resolved; and

20       WHEREAS subsistence use and commercial fishing in the Park do not  
21 threaten Park resources, visitor enjoyment of Park resources, or whale  
22 habitat in the Park;

23       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
24 the National Park Service to work with the state, other federal agencies,  
25 and affected parties to study the resources in Glacier Bay National Park  
26 and the effect of subsistence use, sport and commercial fishing, and  
27 tourism on these resources; and be it

28       FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Park Service proceed expeditiously  
29 to amend its regulations in order to

1           (1) allow commercial fishing under the laws of the State of  
2 Alaska within the nonwilderness areas of the park; and

3           (2) expressly provide for subsistence uses in the Park.

4           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
5 President of the United States; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary  
6 of the U.S. Department of the Interior; James M. Ridenour, Director,  
7 National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; Boyd Evison, Alaska  
8 Regional Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior;  
9 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.  
10 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
11 Alaska delegation in Congress.