

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ELIASON, JONES,  
DUNCAN AND HALFORD

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

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; in 1982, eight percent of  
15 the indicator chinook salmon stocks met the established escapement goals,  
16 while in 1987 that number increased to 42 percent, and from 1982 to 1987 79  
17 percent of all indicator chinook salmon stocks have shown increases in  
18 escapement; and

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

24 WHEREAS many economic sectors in Southeast Alaska have suffered sub-  
25 stantial economic declines under chinook salmon harvest quotas; and

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

28 WHEREAS longer seasons benefit the Southeast Alaska fishing industry  
29 by ensuring higher quality fish products and greater market availability;

1 and

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

4 WHEREAS the shortened season results in area closures for chinook  
5 salmon fisheries and in disastrous economic effects on specific Southeast  
6 Alaska communities; and

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

10 WHEREAS due to increased chinook salmon harvests in fisheries not  
11 subject to a harvest quota and increased federal hatchery production of  
12 chinook salmon the fishermen of Canada, Washington, and Oregon have enjoyed  
13 increased harvests above treaty expectations in some of the fisheries  
14 harvesting the same chinook salmon stocks taken in Alaska; however, there  
15 has not been any increase in the chinook salmon quota in Alaska; and

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

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

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

1 the increased abundance and harvest of chinook salmon.

2 A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to Don Collinsworth, Commis-  
3 sioner, Pacific Salmon Commission.