

# HCR

# 6

<target><bill>HCR 6</bill><subject>HCR  
6</subject><comm>HFSH26</comm></target>

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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
Session:

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REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON  
HOUSE DISTRICT 28

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair  
House Special Committee on Fisheries

FROM: Representative Craig Johnson 

DATE: February 5, 2009

RE: Hearing Request for HCR 6, Recreating the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force

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I respectfully request a hearing in the House Special Committee on Fisheries for HCR 6, "Recreating the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force as a joint legislative task force."

Attached is a copy of the current version of the bill (version R) as well as a draft CS (version E) that makes the following minor changes on page 1. On lines 3-4, 5 and 10 of version R, the words "Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21" are deleted and replaced with the words "Legislative Resolve 51" in version E.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me or Debra Higgins on my staff at 465-3715.

Thank you for your consideration.

Co-Chair House Resources Committee  
Member of Rules, State Affairs, Transportation Committees  
Co-Chair, Abuse Resources Committee  
Member of Rules, State Affairs, Transportation Committees

26-LS0395\E  
Kane  
2/4/09

**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6( )**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:**  
**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Recreating the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force as a joint legislative task force.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature adopted Legislative Resolve  
4 51 establishing the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force; and

5 **WHEREAS** Legislative Resolve 51 requires the task force to submit a report with  
6 recommendations and findings to the legislature by January 20, 2009, and terminates the task  
7 force on February 1, 2009; and

8 **WHEREAS** the task force has been meeting and taking testimony and preparing its  
9 recommendations and findings but has not completed its work or submitted its  
10 recommendations and findings as required by Legislative Resolve 51; and

11 **WHEREAS** the task force will not be able to complete its work or submit its  
12 recommendations and findings before the task force is terminated as provided by Legislative  
13 Resolve 51; and

14 **WHEREAS** the task force has requested that it be permitted to submit its  
15 recommendations and findings by March 31, 2010, and that the task force be terminated on  
16 April 20, 2010;

1           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Cook Inlet Salmon Task  
2 Force is recreated on February 1, 2009, and shall submit its recommendations and findings to  
3 the legislature not later than March 31, 2010; and be it

4           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force is composed of 10  
5 legislators: five members from the senate appointed by the president of the senate and five  
6 members from the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of  
7 representatives; and be it

8           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force is terminated April 20, 2010.

**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6( )**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Recreating the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force as a joint legislative task force.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature adopted Legislative Resolve  
4 51 (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21) establishing the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force;  
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** Legislative Resolve 51 requires the task force to submit a report with  
7 recommendations and findings to the legislature by January 20, 2009, and terminates the task  
8 force on February 1, 2009; and

9 **WHEREAS** the task force has been meeting and taking testimony and preparing its  
10 recommendations and findings but has not completed its work or submitted its  
11 recommendations and findings as required by Legislative Resolve 51; and

12 **WHEREAS** the task force was not able to complete its work or submit its  
13 recommendations and findings before the task force was terminated as provided by  
14 Legislative Resolve 51; and

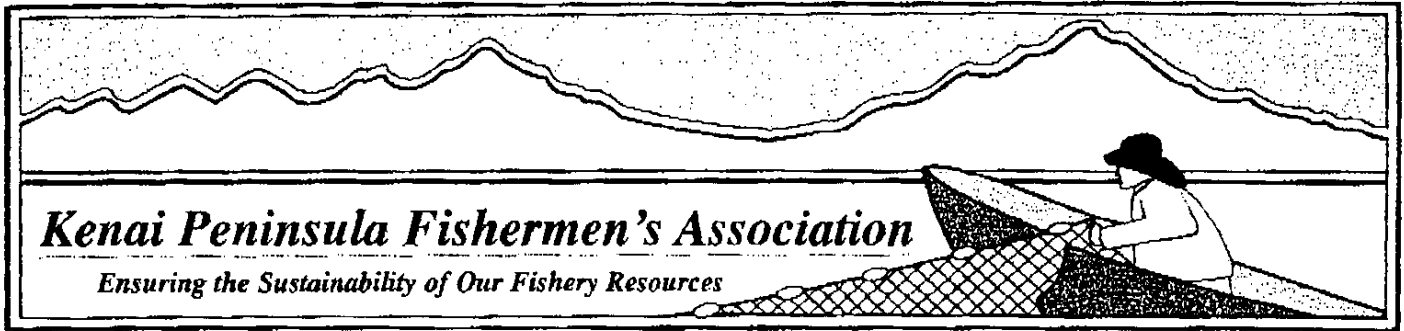
15 **WHEREAS** the task force has requested that it be permitted to submit its  
16 recommendations and findings by March 31, 2010, and that the task force be terminated on

1 April 20, 2010;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Cook Inlet Salmon Task  
3 Force is recreated as of February 1, 2009, and shall submit its recommendations and findings  
4 to the legislature not later than March 31, 2010; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force is composed of 10  
6 members: four members from the senate and one member from the public appointed by the  
7 president of the senate and four members from the house of representatives and one member  
8 from the public appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force is terminated April 20, 2010.



43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276  
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February 11, 2009

Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force  
Chair Representative Craig Johnson  
State Capitol Building, Rm. 126  
Juneau, AK 99811

Chairman Johnson:

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA) members have been a voice in the Cook Inlet Community for over fifty years. Primarily a representation group for setnet fishing families, we give a voice to members from the southern reach of Kachemak Bay to the northern realm of the Susitna Flats, Fire Island, Kalgin Island, the Central District west side and the eastern shores of Ninilchik, Cohoe, Kasilof, Kalifornsky, Salamantof, East Forelands and others.

Of the approximately seven hundred twenty-five Cook Inlet Limited Entry permit holders, KPFA members represent the majority, eighty-six percent who are Alaskan residents.

We want to applaud the Committee on undertaking such a voluminous undertaking. Many of us in the fisheries business have taken years of participation to understand the concepts of complex biological terms. It is our desire to see that every Committee Member fully comprehend the difficult job that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) addresses in taking on the biological management and allowing opportunity for all south-central resource utilization.

Our organizations goal: "*Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources*"

What this means is that we subscribe to the principles of *Maximum Sustained Yield* and to the slight variation, *Optimum Sustained Yield*. We do not agree with management that is determined by politics or social pressures. We believe that a healthy resource that returns *High Sustained Yields* is the only positive way to manage surplus resources to achieve the most equitable distribution. Unhealthy production caused by man made or natural

interventions must be identified and rectified, mitigated to bring balance and substantial returns for a given salmon species.

The Legislature and the Administration should make the commitment to fund resource protection and development. Management can only fulfill expectations of the users if it has healthy and predictable returns.

Cook Inlet setnetters have harvested in her waters for over one hundred years. Competition with traps and other efficient users, over the years, is nothing new for our setnet fishery. We consider these to be just new and expanding fisheries. Our fishermen have had to reduce their opportunity to harvest by time, area and gear in order to accommodate these new fisheries. We understand the need to share the resource, however we do not agree with being excluded from the harvest opportunities; we believe that resource users need to work within reasonable expectations, predictable fisheries based on sound science.

The ADF&G is inadequately funded, it is impossible in the present situation to give the public maximum utilization of her resources because we have limited knowledge and do not have the proper management plans in place to increase production. Intensive use by a growing population requires an equally intensive long range plan that all users can expect will give them access to their chosen resource.

The Department has chosen its management of our entire State on the principles of *Sustained Escapement Goals*. This is a far departure from establishing *Biological or Maximum Sustained Yields*. This is a cost saving measure by the Department and does nothing to accomplish *High Sustained Yields*. There is no incentive within the Sports Division and very little in the Commercial Division to improve on the numbers of returning fish stocks. This is the new definition of *Sustained Yield* within our State Fish and Game Managers, simply it is apathy, a lack of incentive and direction to accomplish the best that can be.

KPFA is looking towards the future. We see the need to expand our knowledge base. We also see the need to increase production to better serve the needs of our residents. Picking the bones from what is left of our resource pleases no one.

If it is necessary for commercial fishermen to manage themselves, they are aware, they have the tools to accomplish this. We believe in real not perceived conservation concerns. State law gives the fishermen the guidance to protect their interests as a separate and significant user group. It is not by any means appropriate to attempt a force out. The result will not change the production problems that currently are the result of inadequate evaluation and protection of the resource.

Forcing commercial fishermen to fish in terminal areas does not improve the success in harvesting, catching or increase production. In-river users will compete with a higher concentration of in-river users. Expectations will be high, actual harvest and catches will be low. We believe that there should be a balance.

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In the end, the Task Force should consider that commercial fishermen want not to just catch a fish today; we want to harvest it tomorrow and next year, and the next decade. We have a strong interest in perpetuating strong healthy runs for our families and for your families. We are for the most part all Alaskans, and we all strive for what is best for the future of our State!

With all respects,



Paul A. Shadura II  
Executive Director

cc Representative Johansen, Representative Neuman, Representative Stoltze, Representative Doogan, Senator Wagoner, Senator Huggins, Senator McGuire, Senator Wielechowski, Fishery Advisor Cora Crome, Representative Chenault, Representative Seaton, Senator Stevens, Representative Austerman, Representative Olson

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