

SCOMM

95:38

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STATEMENT ON HCR -12

MR. CHAIRMAN-
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE-

I AM HERE BEFORE YOU TODAY BECAUSE A
VITAL RESOURCE IS IN A CRISIS SITUATION.

I USE THE TERM VITAL BECAUSE THERE IS A
LARGE ECONOMY BUILT UPON THIS
RESOURCE. AN ECONOMY WHICH STARTS AT
THE DINNER TABLE OF ALASKAN FAMILIES
AND EXTENDS OUTWARD TO THOSE WHO'S
LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON A HEALTHY
RESOURCE.

WE CAN ALL AGREE THERE IS A CRITICAL
PROBLEM WITH KING SALMON IN UPPER
COOK INLET. WE CAN ALL AGREE SERIOUS
MEASURES ARE NEEDED TO CORRECT THE
PROBLEM.

THE SPORT FISH USERS IN MY DISTRICT ARE
VERY UPSET. THE BUSINESSES IN MY
DISTRICT ARE VERY UPSET. THE PEOPLE
WHO BRING FISH HOME TO THEIR FAMILIES
ARE VERY UPSET.

THEY ARE UPSET BECAUSE THIS HAS
HAPPENED.

THEY ARE UPSET BECAUSE THEY ARE
LOSING FISH AND AN IMPORTANT ECONOMY
--BUT....

THEY HAVE ALL AGREED TO SUPPORT THE
CLOSURES AND REDUCTIONS TO SAVE THE
RESOURCE.

MR. CHAIRMAN THIS RESOLUTION IS ASKING
THE BOARD TO LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT
THIS CRISIS. TO DETERMINE WHAT OTHER
MEASURES MAY BE NECESSARY, TO BUILD
BACK AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, A
THREATENED RESOURCE.

I FEEL IT IS WRONG TO ZERO ONE USER
GROUP OUT AND LET OTHER USER GROUPS
CONTINUE TO TAKE FISH NEEDED FOR
ESCAPEMENT.

IT IS WRONG TO CRIPPLE ONE ECONOMY
AND LET ANOTHER CONTINUE TO FISH IF
THEY ARE TAKING SUSITNA BOUND KINGS.
IF THE BOARD HAS MADE A MISTAKE WITH
MANAGEMENT DO NOT MAKE MY
CONSTITUENTS ABSORB ALL THE DAMAGE.

THIS RESOLUTION, THIS COMMITTEE, CAN NOT SOLVE THIS CRISIS. BUT IT CAN ACT SO THE BOARD IS SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE.

A MESSAGE TO RE-VISIT THIS ISSUE. TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE TO ASSIST THE RESOURCE THAT CAN BE DONE.

A MESSAGE TO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN. IF OVER HARVEST IS THE PROBLEM THEN DO NOT LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. IF INTERCEPT FISHERIES ARE THE PROBLEM DO NOT LET THEM CONTINUE.

FINALLY, THIS RESOLUTION WILL HOPEFULLY HELP TO GET THE GOVERNOR INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE. MY CONSTITUENTS BACK HOME ARE FEELING NEGLECTED BY THIS ADMINISTRATION.

IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT THAT THESE ARE YOUR DISTRICT BUSINESSES, LIVELIHOODS, AND TRADITIONAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES BEING ZEROED OUT...

MR. CHAIRMAN, I ASK THIS COMMITTEE TO ASSIST ME ON BEHALF OF THE RESOURCE IN BRINGING ALL PARTIES TO THE TABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS CRITICAL TASK.

4

IF THE LANGUAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION
CAN BE BETTER DRAFTED TO ACCOMPLISH
THIS GOAL - I ENCOURAGE YOU AS
CHAIRMAN TO USE YOUR PREROGATIVE TO
ACCOMPLISH THIS.

I DO ASK IN THE INTEREST OF TIME TO
EXPEDITE THIS RESOLUTION.

WE MUST REQUEST THE BOARD TO ACT
BEFORE ANY MORE KINGS ARE TAKEN BY
ANYONE.

WE CAN WORK OUT ALLOCATION ISSUES
AFTER THE RESOURCE IS HEALTHY AGAIN.
BUT NOW WE MUST ACT, WE MUST
CONCENTRATE ON THE RESOURCE.

I AM NOT A BIOLOGIST, NOR AN EXPERT ON
ANY OF THE DETAILS. I AM HOWEVER
FULLY COMMITTED TO BRING ALL THOSE
PARTIES TOGETHER.

WE MUST QUIT USING OUTDATED
MANAGEMENT PLANS WHICH HAVE LITTLE
RELEVANCE TO THE PROBLEMS WE ARE
FACING TODAY IN THE NORTHERN
DISTRICTS OF COOK INLET.

HUMAN POPULATIONS HAVE INCREASED
DRAMATICALLY IN UPPER COOK INLET
OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, AND YET THE
BOARD STILL HAS NOT DEVELOPED A NEW
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MAKING
ALLOCATION DECISIONS.

IT IS TIME FOR US TO PROVIDE A SERIOUS
NUDGE TO THOSE WHO ALLOCATE OUR
RESOURCES.

IT IS TIME WE EXPLAIN THAT THE
LEGISLATURE NOT THE BOARD HAS TO
ULTIMATELY ACCEPT THE BLAME IF THEY
(THE BOARD) FAIL.

IT IS THE LEGISLATURE THAT CONFIRMS
APPOINTEES AND GIVES THE BOARD IT'S
AUTHORITY AND GUIDELINES. NOT THE
OTHER WAY AROUND.

WE ARE, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT,
WHERE THE FISH BUCK STOPS.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.



34824 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite E • Soldotna • Alaska • 99669 • (907) 262-2492

March 6, 1995

SENT BY TELEFAX

Representative Alan Austerman
Fisheries Committee Chairman
State Capitol, Room #434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman,

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA) has a keen interest in HCR 12 which will be addressed by the Fisheries Committee this evening. We hope to be able to participate at that time through the LIO in Soldotna.

The spirit in which this resolution was written and the comments that accompanied its release to the press are of great concern to commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet. It is only through mutual cooperation that the complex issues that affect our fisheries resources can be addressed adequately. This resolution does little to achieve this goal.

KPFA shares the concern that all stocks of Cook Inlet salmon remain healthy and available for multiple uses. We have enclosed some concerns and questions about HCR 12. We would appreciate the Fisheries Committee addressing these concerns and questions as it reviews the Resolution.

Sincerely,

Karl Kircher
President

Enclosure

CC Representative Carl Moses

KENAI PENINSULA FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS
RELATING TO HCR 12
March 6, 1995

Page 1 Line 11-12

WHEREAS the fair and impartial allocation of fisheries resources of the state based solely on the direct economic return associated with the sale of those resources . . .

QUESTION: Considering all different runs of salmon to Upper Cook Inlet, would you say that the present allocation scenario for these stocks is based solely on direct economic return associated with the sale of those resources?

Page 1 Line 15-17

WHEREAS certain salmon stocks of the Upper Cook Inlet area, which are significantly affected by the management of the commercial salmon fisheries of Upper Cook Inlet, are experiencing sharp declines in abundance:

QUESTION: Which are these certain stocks? Does the Department of Fish and Game have possible reason why these certain stocks are experiencing sharp decline?

Page 2 Line 1-3

WHEREAS the noncommercial harvest of certain stocks in the Upper Cook Inlet area has been more restrictively regulated than has the commercial harvest of those stocks;

QUESTION: Which are these certain stocks?

Page 2 Line 12-14

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to Direct the BOF to address the management crisis facing the salmon fisheries of Upper Cook Inlet.

QUESTION: Is this request for action on a certain stock? What is the management crisis?

Page 2 Line 16

particularly those stocks which are declining in abundance

QUESTION: Which stocks? Are these early run stocks? Are there any late run stocks, which are harvested by the commercial fishery, that are "declining in abundance"?

Page 2 Line 17-21

Further Resolved that the BOF be directed to examine data from all segments of the salmon fisheries of the Upper Cook Inlet area including information on . . .

QUESTION: Is this request regarding certain stocks or are we looking to have the BOF address all of the Cook Inlet management plans

There appears to be a focused attention to "certain stocks" (unidentified) but the RESOLVES center around a total review of all Upper Cook Inlet. Is this an attempt to draw Kenai River issues into Northern District conservation concerns?



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Rep. Beverly Masek

SPONSOR STATEMENT

I have introduced HCR -12 to do three things:

1. To make sure every possible corrective action is taken to assist a resource which is in serious trouble.
2. To alert the Governor and the Board to the importance of both the resource and the economies depending on the resource.
3. To warn the Board that the legislature can not remain on the sidelines when these type of resource emergencies occur. The sheer numbers of people and economic impact of the recent decision require a heightened level of public interest.

It is my hope this resolution will induce the Fisheries Board to revisit this issue as well as get all possible parties to step outside their own special interests on behalf of the resource.

Thank you.

9-LS0748G
Utermohle
3/8/95

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MASEK, Mulder

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to management of the salmon fisheries of the upper Cook Inlet area.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaska is renowned throughout the world for the abundance and diversity
4 of its fishery resources; and

5 **WHEREAS** a large proportion of the residents of the state, constituting a broad spectrum
6 of the life styles found in the state, depend on the fishery resources of the state for food, a
7 mainstay of livelihood, and recreation; and

8 **WHEREAS** the fair and impartial allocation of the fisheries resources of the state is
9 consistent with the mandate of the Alaska State Constitution for use of the state's resources in
10 accordance with the public interest and for the maximum benefit of the people of the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Constitution mandates that all replenishable resources be
12 maintained on a sustained yield basis; and

13 **WHEREAS** the sustainability of the fishery resources of the state should be the first
14 priority for fishery management; and

15 **WHEREAS** certain salmon stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area are experiencing sharp
16 declines in abundance; and

1 **WHEREAS** both the noncommercial and commercial harvests of certain salmon stocks
2 in the upper Cook Inlet area have been restrictively regulated in recent years; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature has received a great number of requests to
4 intervene in the management of the salmon of the upper Cook Inlet area on the behalf of the
5 noncommercial users, but recognizes that the allocation of fishery resources is properly left to
6 the Board of Fisheries;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
8 to direct the Department of Fish and Game to increase its efforts to address the serious resource
9 problems of many of the salmon stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area and to develop, in
10 conjunction with the Board of Fisheries and all interested user groups, a long-range management
11 plan for the protection and sustainable yield of the salmon stocks of the upper Cook Inlet area;
12 and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Fish and Game expand its information
14 gathering efforts to specifically include information on new or expanding fisheries in the upper
15 Cook Inlet area, effects on spawning and rearing habitat, incidental harvests, interception rates,
16 and the rates of harvest of the salmon resources of the upper Cook Inlet area by commercial and
17 noncommercial fishermen.