

# House Memorials

## HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 1.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS, ASSEMBLED:

Your Memorialists, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, it is a fact conceded by all observers, even the most casual, that there has been for many years a constant diminution in the run of salmon of all kinds in the Territory of Alaska, amounting in many of the best salmon streams to depletion; and

WHEREAS, the remedy for this situation must be adequate and yet least burdensome to the large number of our permanent population; and

WHEREAS, thousands of the white and native population of Alaska are almost entirely dependent on their fishing operations for their living and support; and

WHEREAS, a large number of fine salmon streams are practically blocked by traps, even though they are legally placed on account of topography and the habit of salmon to enter streams by following an almost invariable course which has resulted in the depletion of many fine streams; and

WHEREAS, the traps now catch millions of salmon and fish of all kinds, and catch them regardless of weather conditions, and also catch the salmon during the twenty-fours of each day while the traps, placed as they are across the path of the salmon, on their way to their spawning grounds, catch with relentless efficiency nearly every fish that follows this path whether swimming singly or in schools; and

WHEREAS, it has been proven that it is impossible to regulate these traps which violate the law constantly by fishing during the closed periods and few culprits are brought to justice, and

WHEREAS, it is also a well-known fact that seiners frequently "rob the creek" in such a way that it is admitted by all, including the fishermen and the Bureau of Fisheries or

their deputies, that the present system of law enforcement is entirely inadequate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that beginning with the year January first, 1922, all traps shall be at least 5,280 feet from outside points to the entrance of all bays containing salmon streams, and that the distance between all traps in any one direction shall be 5,280 feet; and all seines be not more than one hundred and fifty (150) fathoms in length and not less than six (6) fathoms nor more than twelve (12) fathoms deep, this being a necessary step to preserve the fishing industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the following fishing regulations be enacted:

That there be a weekly closed season beginning twelve M. Friday of each week and ending six A. M., the Monday following;

That deputy wardens be given a district to patrol, over which they must travel at irregular intervals, covering their beat at least twice a week;

That at each important stream there be placed a deputy warden to serve with or without pay, and only during the time when the salmon are running, that the deputy shall have the qualification of being a bona fide resident of Alaska;

That every fisherman shall be required to carry a license to fish, and that said license be granted only to full citizens of the United States and to the inhabitants of Annette Island;

That said license be suspended for thirty (30) days for the first offense or violation of the fishing regulations, and suspended for a period of one year for the second offense, and revoked in perpetuity for the third offense, and in addition to suspension or revocation of license, all gear used in illegal fishing shall be subject to confiscation; and that each warden or deputy be authorized to act summarily in taking up the license, permitting the holder to have redress in the District Court;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States place the control of the fishing business of Alaska in the hands and under the control of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska;

RESOLVED FURTHER, by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, that a copy hereof be sent to the President of

---

the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Honorable Dan Sutherland, Delegate to the House of Representatives from Alaska, and to the Secretary of Commerce.

Passed the House, May 5, 1921.