

indeed negligible, amounts (less than 1% of the total wholesale income) have been spent for the conservation and propagation of Alaska's salmon fisheries which under many years of Federal stewardship have declined severely and are rapidly approaching extinction, notwithstanding it is of paramount importance to the maintenance of this valuable food resource and to the economic well-being of the State of Alaska and the United States that these fisheries be restored to their maximum productivity as rapidly as possible; and

THEREFORE, the Legislature of the State of Alaska, in First Session assembled, asks that the Congress of the United States be respectfully requested

to provide the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game with annual funds to be spent for the rehabilitation of Alaska's salmon resources, including such activities as research, fish laddering and guiding devices, stream clearance projects, and fish hatching and rearing operations as may be necessary to restore these resources, and that the funds shall not be less than five million (\$5,000,000.00) dollars per year and shall continue for not less than fifteen (15) years or until the harvest of salmon in Alaska reaches and maintains a sustained level of six million cases.

Passed by the Senate April 3, 1959.

Passed by the House April 16, 1959.

#### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

**To the Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, Senators from Alaska; the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, Representative from Alaska; and the Honorable William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska:**

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in First Session assembled, respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, an area of 2,924 square miles in two separate parcels at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River in the State of Alaska, has been requested for withdrawal as a wildlife refuge by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, of this proposed withdrawal area of one million eight hundred thousand acres, approximately twenty percent thereof consists of navigable waters of the State; and

WHEREAS, the mouth of the Kuskokwim River has been historically and is presently an area wherein many of the natives of that part of Alaska find their sustenance and make their living, thus making the possibility of the Federal withdrawal a source of great alarm to the inhabitants of the area; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alaska has had no opportunity

to study the proposed withdrawal, and therefore, cannot ascertain its likely effects upon the economy and ecology of the State; and

WHEREAS, such a withdrawal, affecting such a large area, is certain to have an impact upon the new State of Alaska, the ramifications of which impact needs must be studied in detail by the elected representatives of the people of Alaska so that an intelligent report thereon can be given and so that protest or approval thereof can be effected;

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in First Session assembled respectfully urges, on behalf of the people of Alaska, that any final action on the proposed Kuskokwim withdrawal be delayed until the Alaska Legislature has an opportunity to study the proposal in detail and express its views thereon; and that the Department of the Interior, in drawing any withdrawal order, define and delimit the navigable waters of the State of Alaska within such area so that such waters may be eliminated from such project, such waters being, in the opinion of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, not properly subject to such a Federal withdrawal.

Passed by the Senate February 17, 1959.

Passed by the House February 23, 1959.