



# Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

HJR 108 am

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting the establishment of an estuarine research center at Douglas, Alaska.

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### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the combination of existing fisheries with suitable study areas make Southeast Alaska an ideal location for a major subarctic estuarine research center; and

WHEREAS, because the myriad of islands, inlets, fjords and small and large rivers of the region constitute one enormous subarctic estuarine environment and the depth of many of the fjords provide a direct and nearby connection with oceanic waters, many large protected areas have a combination of an estuarine habitat with a nearby deep marine environment comparable with that over the continental shelf; and

WHEREAS, because many species which are fished or mature offshore utilize these estuaries for spawning as well as nursery areas, the region sustains a multimillion dollar fishing industry including salmon, halibut, herring, shrimp, crab and other shellfish; and

WHEREAS the wide variety of environments and marine species available to a Southeastern Alaska estuarine laboratory would lend themselves to several possible research programs, both basic and applied, including marine ecology, the role of estuaries in oceanic productivity, aquaculture and experimental ecosystems; and

WHEREAS a laboratory for estuarine studies in Southeastern Alaska would have application to a wide variety of projects of direct national interest and indirect benefits would accrue to existing fisheries in the area; and

WHEREAS the most reasonable location for such a center would be at Douglas, Alaska since the Douglas Marine Station, which is currently in operation, could be expanded into such a research center with the additional advantage of close proximity to the Auke Bay Biological Laboratory of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Institute of Northern Forestry which all engage in allied fields of research providing cross-disciplinary exchanges and a congenial environment for the scientific and technical personnel of the proposed center;

BE IT RESOLVED that the U. S. Department of the Interior and the State of Alaska are respectfully requested to take all steps necessary to establish a vitally needed estuarine research center at Douglas, Alaska.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary, Department of the Interior; the Regents of the University of Alaska; the Honorable Harry L. Rietze, Regional Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.