



Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

SCR 38 am

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

Relating to the development of a joint federal and state fish and wildlife management plan for Bristol Bay, Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the Estuary Protection Act (P. L. 90-454) provides that certain estuarine areas may be managed, developed, and administered by an agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and a state or other political subdivision with approval of the governor; and

WHEREAS estuaries are a necessary link in the ecosystem that produces shrimp, crab, and most of our sport and commercial fisheries, as well as being vital for production of waterfowl and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS Bristol Bay is an estuary of international significance for its fish and wildlife resources, being the world's most important sockeye salmon producing area with annual runs of sockeye salmon in some years exceeding 50 million fish and providing a harvest worth over \$20 million to the fishermen; and

WHEREAS Bristol Bay is one of the world's most important intercontinental staging areas for migrating waterfowl, where millions of ducks, geese, shorebirds, and colonial seabirds feed, rest, and nest; and

WHEREAS Bristol Bay populations of marine mammals such as fur seals, sea lions, sea otters, whales, and walrus are abundant and in some cases unique, as is the group of walrus inhabiting the protected Walrus Islands; and

WHEREAS Bristol Bay has great potential for commercial development of many species of fish and shellfish, including pink shrimp, king and tanner crab, flounder and rockfish, that all will be a source of food and income for future generations; and

WHEREAS, because of the extremely high values of fish, wildlife and waterfowl dependent on Bristol Bay, a meaningful management plan is essential, requiring the cooperation of both state and federal agencies since waters under the jurisdiction of each are involved;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior, through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to develop a management plan for Bristol Bay, so that both state and federal agencies will manage those portions of Bristol Bay under their respective jurisdictions primarily for the conservation, development and wise use of fish and wildlife; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that after approval by the Department of the Interior, the Bristol Bay management plan serve as a basis for an agreement between the appropriate state agencies and the Secretary of the Interior to establish Bristol Bay as a National Estuary, with management following the outline of the jointly developed management plan.