



# Alaska State Legislature

1972

Source:

SCR 27

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Requesting the establishment of a comprehensive salmon rehabilitation and restoration program in the Cook Inlet watershed.

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

WHEREAS increasing numbers of both sport and commercial fishermen are subjecting the Cook Inlet salmon stocks to severe pressures both in the spawning streams and in salt water, making the Cook Inlet watershed the most heavily utilized salmon fishery in the state; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Fish and Game, the Cook Inlet salmon stocks have sustained a drastic decline due to intensity of use; and

WHEREAS techniques have become available for greatly enhancing the productivity of the natural spawning grounds and rearing areas; and

WHEREAS the Bear Lake project near Seward demonstrated that enhancement projects can show a return from the first year's spawning of \$10 for each \$1 spent; and

WHEREAS the Upper Susitna Basin may offer a potential salmon rearing system rivaling in magnitude the Bristol Bay runs if the Devils Canyon Falls can be surmounted; and

WHEREAS no inventory of the fresh water spawning and rearing areas of the Cook Inlet watershed has ever been conducted, even though the Commissioner of Fish and Game has stated that such an inventory is badly needed, and therefore the potential for development is unknown; and

WHEREAS such an inventory would be the fundamental basis on

which to build an areawide program for increased production;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Commissioner of Fish and Game to designate the Cook Inlet watershed as a pilot project to be used in determining the effectiveness of a comprehensive program utilizing all feasible techniques for increasing salmon production, which will include (1) the preparation, in 1972, by the Department of Fish and Game of a comprehensive inventory of the fresh water streams and lakes of the Cook Inlet watershed; and (2) a detailed plan, including but not limited to, lake rehabilitation, stream clearance, aluminum steep pass, gravel incubators, and salt water rearing techniques for increasing salmon production from the Cook Inlet watershed to the level of maximum sustained yield; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game submit a progress report to the First Session of the Eighth Legislature within the first 30 days of the legislative session; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that additional funds be allocated for the above purposes, so that other fisheries throughout the state that are pressed for adequate funding will not be deprived of the funds necessary to sustain their present programs.