

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

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Legislative
Resolve No.

71



Relating to the study of hatchery and wild salmon stock harvest and the comparative economics of salmon hatchery construction and operation.

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

WHEREAS the nonprofit salmon hatchery program was established by the Legislature in 1974; and

WHEREAS the express legislative intent was to ". . . authorize the private ownership of salmon hatcheries by qualified nonprofit corporations for the purpose of contributing, by artificial means, to the rehabilitation of the state's depleted and depressed salmon fishery. . ."; and

WHEREAS the program is to be administered in a manner ". . . without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state. . ." and in a manner ". . . which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon from naturally occurring stocks"; and

WHEREAS the nonprofit salmon hatchery program was subsequently amended in 1976 to allow for the creation of regional associations for the purpose of salmon fishery enhancement and gives qualified associations preference to hatchery permits from the Department of Fish and Game; and

WHEREAS the state can make loans to regional hatchery associations in the amount of \$3,000,000 maximum per loan to regional associations and \$300,000 maximum per loan to other hatchery permit holders; and

WHEREAS the voters of Alaska approved the construction of state-owned hatchery and rearing facilities in the amount of \$24,565,000 in the 1976 general election; and

WHEREAS there has not been a comprehensive analysis of the

relative cost to the state of the state-owned hatcheries and the private nonprofit hatcheries; and

WHEREAS these state-owned facilities will be located in Southeastern Alaska, Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Prince William Sound, and the Alaska Interior; and

WHEREAS the locations of these state-owned hatchery facilities are in the general proximity of present and potential future private nonprofit salmon hatchery facilities; and

WHEREAS both the state and private hatchery facilities will release salmon into the common property fishery; and

WHEREAS private hatchery fish will be subject to the common property fishery along with the naturally occurring salmon runs in Alaska; and

WHEREAS it is the stated policy of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that "if complexities arise in managing mixed stocks, including both hatchery fish and wild fish, it will be state policy to manage the collective resource in a manner that favors protection of the wild stocks."; and

WHEREAS the proper management of this multi-stock fishery is of vital importance to the people of Alaska in light of the importance of the salmon fishery to the economic welfare of a significant portion of the state's population;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the State of Alaska is committed to a fisheries management policy that encourages and promotes the coexistence of healthy hatchery and wild stocks of salmon, and to implement this policy the Department of Fish and Game, through the regional planning teams, shall initiate planning to meet the potential conflicts which may arise from the harvest of hatchery and wild salmon stocks so that the wild stocks are adequately protected; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Fisheries Council study the comparable salmon hatchery cost to the state for both capital and operational costs for state-owned hatcheries and private nonprofit hatcheries; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Fisheries Council report their findings and recommendations to the Second Session, Tenth Legislature.