

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1981

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

SCR 12

5



Relating to hand trolling.

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

WHEREAS the Board of Fisheries has recently amended 5 AAC 39.270(a)(3) to allow hand trollers to use no more than four fishing rods, or, in the alternative, one hand troll gurdy and one fishing rod, unless the board finds in the course of the year that the hand troll catch is small enough to allow the use of two hand troll gurdies for the remainder of the year; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the regulation is to keep the percentage of fish caught by hand trollers at 20 percent of the fish caught with troll gear; and

WHEREAS adoption of the regulation is premature since the regulations on gear that were formerly in effect and other factors have contributed to a reduction in the number of hand trollers actively participating in the fishery over the last several seasons, resulting in a progressive lowering of the percentage of the troll catch taken by hand trollers toward the desired 20 percent; and

WHEREAS the regulation will not permit hand trollers to catch enough fish to pay the ever-rising operating costs of their vessels and they may be forced to fish in areas and weather conditions which are not safe for their vessels; and

WHEREAS limited entry into the hand troll fishery which is being implemented for the first time this year may have some effect toward the achievement of the purpose of the regulation; and

WHEREAS the regulation is unnecessary since the Board of

Fisheries can act to preserve fish stocks in the event of overfishing by ordering emergency time and area closures during the season; and

WHEREAS the regulations on gear formerly in effect were not adequately enforced, but if they had been, the purposes of the limitation on gear may very well have been achieved; and

WHEREAS the regulation affects not only those who engage in hand trolling as a "lifestyle fishery" but also those who are dependent on hand trolling as their primary or only available source of livelihood; and

WHEREAS there may be management methods which were not fully considered by the board but which would achieve the purposes of the regulation without deleterious impacts on hand trollers; and

WHEREAS, due to the widespread dissatisfaction with the regulation and the potential hardship it may cause hand trollers, reconsideration is warranted; and

WHEREAS the legislature considers that fisheries management decisions are properly the province of the Board of Fisheries and should not be determined by statute;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Board of Fisheries to address these concerns and to reconsider its amendment to 5 AAC 39.270(a)(3).