

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1996

Source
CSHJR 43(FSH)

Legislative
Resolve No.
38



Relating to commercial fishing and subsistence use in Glacier Bay National Park.

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

WHEREAS the National Park Service is currently addressing the issue of subsistence use and commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park (Park) and is considering the status of subsistence use and commercial fishing in the park; and

WHEREAS subsistence use and commercial fishing have occurred in the Park since before it was established as a national monument in 1925 up to the present day; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service currently does not recognize the right of residents of Hoonah and other local communities to use the area now included in the Park for subsistence use, as their ancestors had done for generations; and

WHEREAS the prohibition of subsistence use and commercial fishing in the Park would have disastrous and widespread economic, environmental, and social consequences for the fishermen of Southeast Alaska and the communities in which they reside; and

WHEREAS the continued subsistence and commercial use of fisheries resources within the navigable waters of the Park are desirable and are environmentally compatible with the purposes of the Park; and

WHEREAS the harvest of fisheries resources in the Park is conservatively managed by

the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote the sustained health of the fish stocks; and

WHEREAS migratory species of fish that do not originate in the Park constitute the majority of the fish harvested within the Park; a portion of the salmon harvested in the Park is the result of salmon enhancement and rehabilitation efforts by the State of Alaska and private nonprofit aquaculture associations; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service must administer the Park subject to existing rights, statutes, and regulations; and

WHEREAS National Park Service regulations specifically provide for commercial sport fishing activities and for the use of large tour ships within the Park; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has a claim to ownership of the submerged lands and navigable waters of the Park; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska exercises management authority over fishery resources of the Park; and

WHEREAS issues relating to state and federal jurisdiction in the Park have not been resolved; and

WHEREAS subsistence use and commercial fishing in the Park do not threaten Park resources, visitor enjoyment of Park resources, or whale habitat in the Park;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the National Park Service to work with the state, other federal agencies, and affected parties to study the resources in Glacier Bay National Park and the effect of sport and commercial fishing, subsistence use, and tourism on these resources; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Park Service, if it promulgates regulations,

(1) authorize continued commercial fishing under the laws of the State of Alaska within the marine waters of Glacier Bay National Park; and

(2) expressly provide for subsistence uses in the Park.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; Roger G. Kennedy, Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; Robert Barbee, Alaska Regional Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the

Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.