

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Source
CSHJR 65(L&C)

Legislative
Resolve No.
69



Requesting that Alaska wild salmon be included as an organic food under federal law.

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

WHEREAS the ocean waters off the coast of Alaska are among the most pristine waters on the globe; and

WHEREAS Alaska wild salmon thrive in these waters, returning to Alaska shores at the end of their life cycle; and

WHEREAS Alaska wild salmon are recognized by dieticians and other nutritionists to be a source of healthful food; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to confuse the consumer, farmed salmon have been marketed as wild salmon; and

WHEREAS efforts to resolve this intentional identification confusion by the massively subsidized foreign salmon farm industry has proved to be a difficult task; and

WHEREAS a key difference between Alaska wild salmon and farmed salmon is the use of various drugs and chemicals by the salmon farmers; and

WHEREAS Alaska wild salmon legitimately deserve a label that indicates the organic and superior qualities of this food; and

WHEREAS the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of

Agriculture, is seeking comments on a proposal to establish a national organic production program under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 - 6522); and

WHEREAS the organic food industry is a \$3,500,000,000 industry growing at the rate of 20 percent each year; and

WHEREAS having Alaska wild salmon recognized under the national organic production program will allow the Alaska commercial salmon industry to develop this new market; and

WHEREAS any effort by the United States Department of Agriculture to avoid defining Alaska wild salmon as organic because there is no control over the oceans would be tantamount to penalizing organic vegetable farmers because they do not have control over the rain; and

WHEREAS there are molecular tests that can readily indicate the organic qualities and lack of chemicals of Alaska wild salmon;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, to give careful consideration to including Alaska wild salmon on its list of organic foods; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the National Organic Standards Board, if there is not a currently clearly defined section or category for wild salmon, to include a section for wild salmon as an organic food under federal law; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the members of Alaska's delegation to the United States Congress to pursue expeditiously the inclusion of Alaska wild salmon as an organic food under federal law.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Daniel R. Glickman, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; 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.