

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2001

Source
HR 6

House
Resolve No.
6



Supporting the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association's plan for enhancement and rehabilitation of Cook Inlet fisheries.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association was organized and incorporated in 1976 to protect and rehabilitate self-perpetuating salmon stocks and salmon habitat and to maximize the value of the common property salmon resource by applying science and enhancement technology to supplement the value attained from protection and rehabilitation of self-perpetuating salmon stocks; and

WHEREAS the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association is a qualified regional aquaculture association under state law; and

WHEREAS the programs of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association serve the entire Cook Inlet region, which includes all waters of Alaska in Cook Inlet and Resurrection Bay north of Cape Douglas and west of Cape Fairfield, including the Barren Islands and all lands draining into Cook Inlet and Resurrection Bay; and

WHEREAS the programs of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association serve the Cook

Inlet fishing community, which consists of Native and non-Native subsistence users, commercial, personal use, and sport fishermen, and the businesses that support these users; and

WHEREAS more than 50 percent of the population of Alaska resides in the Cook Inlet region; and

WHEREAS salmon prices have begun a downward trend, reducing the income available to individuals and businesses that rely directly or indirectly on the salmon resource for income; and

WHEREAS, not only have salmon prices declined, but the returns of salmon to the Cook Inlet region have also weakened, particularly sockeye salmon in 1998 and 2000 and coho salmon in 1999; and

WHEREAS the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the federal government have declared the Cook Inlet fishing community to be an economic disaster; and

WHEREAS the declaration of the economic disaster has provided short-term assistance to the Cook Inlet fishing community; and

WHEREAS the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association has developed a plan for long-term assistance to the Cook Inlet fishing community through fisheries rehabilitation and enhancement; and

WHEREAS the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association has presented its plan for long-term assistance to the Cook Inlet fishing community to the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS the Kenai Peninsula Borough has identified the long-term assistance plan prepared by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association as a priority for federal funding during 2001; and

WHEREAS subsistence fishing and personal use fishing are important to the citizens of Alaska; and

WHEREAS tourism and commercial fishing are industries important to the economy of Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska House of Representatives supports the plan proposed by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association for long-term assistance to the Cook Inlet fishing community through fisheries rehabilitation and enhancement; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska House of Representatives supports the

efforts of the Kenai Peninsula Borough to assist the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association in providing long-term assistance to the Cook Inlet fishing community; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska House of Representatives supports the efforts of the Kenai Peninsula Borough to obtain federal funding for the plan of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association to provide long-term assistance to the Cook Inlet fishing community.