

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

2001

Source  
CSSJR 15(RLS)

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
22



Relating to imports of salmon from Chile.

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

**WHEREAS** salmon farms produced almost 1,800,000,000 pounds of product worldwide in 1999; and

**WHEREAS** Chile is the growing giant of the farmed salmon industry; and

**WHEREAS** imports of farmed salmon from Chile have grown by 120 percent in the last five years, and Chile is now the world leader in the farmed salmon industry, with production expected to grow significantly each year; and

**WHEREAS** the total 1999 Alaska salmon harvest was only 898,600,000 pounds; and

**WHEREAS** the harvest of salmon in Alaska can increase only fractionally due to natural factors and the inherent conditions associated with the harvest of wild salmon; and

**WHEREAS** salmon farms in Chile operate in a low-cost labor environment with heavy government subsidization and without the regulatory constraints that govern the Alaska fishing industry, giving Chile a major advantage in the costs of production; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska salmon is harvested by independent fishermen and is processed in plants that bring critical economic benefits to many remote Alaska communities; and

**WHEREAS** the commercial fishing industry in Alaska is the largest private sector employer in Alaska, and wild salmon is the primary product for most coastal fishing ports in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** the bulk of the harvest of Alaska salmon is marketed as a fresh product from May through October, and Chile can supply fresh farmed salmon throughout the year, making it difficult for our fishermen to sell Alaska salmon in the domestic market;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Department of State, while negotiating trade agreements with Chile, to consider the numerous negative effects that farmed salmon from Chile has on the economy of Alaska; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the imposition of import restrictions and increased import tariffs on salmon products from Chile.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Don Evans, United States Secretary of Commerce; 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.