

## HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 13

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA, AND THE DELEGATE FROM ALASKA:

WHEREAS, an investigation has been made of the decline in the productivity of the Alaska Salmon Fisheries, including consultation with officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., The United Trollers of Alaska, and representatives of other fishermen's unions and the Cold Storage Industry in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, for the past three years there has been a rapid and continuous decline in the salmon taken in the waters of Southeastern Alaska, and particularly in the northern half of Southeastern Alaska, with the result that the earnings of fishermen have been seriously affected, and the industry as a whole does not expect any improvement unless some very drastic changes are made. Although the earnings of those engaged in the industry have not declined to the extent indicated by the reduction in the catch, this fact has been due entirely to the high price of fish on the markets of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, with the resumption of normal supplies of meat and other products, the industry is faced with a serious financial problem which will affect the whole economy of the Territory of Alaska and particular the economy of the coastal cities and villages. The Fish and Wildlife Service does not have an adequate research program for the purpose of accumulating facts on a scientific basis which are necessary for a complete rehabilitation of the industry and the promulgating of the regulations under which it operates. Other problems of similar magnitude have been solved with respect to the halibut fisheries and the sockeye run on the Fraser River of British Columbia. The Fish and Wildlife Service has long recognized the need for an adequate research program and is unable to obtain the necessary appropriation for a long range program of the intensity desired; and,

WHEREAS, some phases of the life cycle of the salmon are a complete mystery to those engaged in the industry, and it is generally

believed that among other things, tagging programs should be resumed and research conducted with respect to the effect of temperature changes in the water. It is alleged by all fishermen that present conservation and regulatory measures are aimed at those salmon which escape the traps and are headed for the spawning beds. Since this type of regulation jeopardizes the livelihood of thousands of fishermen and injures the industry as a whole, the Fish and Wildlife Service is urged to extend its study of the salmon migrations and its conservation regulations from the spawning beds to the Territorial limits of our offshore waters. Particular and immediate attention should be given to the restoration of our early runs of salmon and to an honest examination of our present regulations to the end that such regulations bear upon all types of gear with equal force; and.

WHEREAS, it appears that the most important factor in the decrease of the salmon run in this area has been caused by violations of the fishing regulations with respect to the various types of gear employed regularly in the industry, and particularly with respect to the use of seines, chicken wire and dip nets in taking salmon from closed areas at the mouths of streams while the salmon are congregating before ascending the streams. This condition has been aggravated and the number of violations generally have increased because of the scarcity of salmon in areas open to fishing and the high prices since 1941 for all varieties of salmon. In order to effectively patrol the streams and apprehend violators, substantial increases in the appropriations for these activities, must be obtained. In the Juneau District, which comprises the northerly half of Southeastern Alaska there are 1500 miles of coastline closed to fishing, but these areas are scattered through 4500 miles of coastline comprising the district; and,

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Service is now patrolling the area with two boats, two aircraft, which are both in need of repair at the present time, and about five stream watchmen. The Service has lost many valuable men who have found it more profitable to resign and engage in other activities. Necessity is shown for five boats, three aircraft and about 50 watchmen for the Juneau area alone for the purpose of preventing illegal fishing and the apprehension of violators. Sufficient funds have not been made available for a patrol program of this size which is needed for the protection of the industry. Adequate provision of funds has not been made to permit the inspection of fish buyers' records and the inspection of fish purchased at the buying stations. Many violators can be apprehended and placed under suspicion by such inspection for the fish caught in seines have net marks upon them and the fish caught in

streams are discolored. Such inspection would prevent the sale of fish after the seasons have been closed and after those caught during the open season are sold; and,

WHEREAS, the program of licensing fishing boats by means of metal license plates was suspended during the war but should be resumed for the purpose of ready identification and a tabulation of the number of persons using each type of gear; and,

WHEREAS, it has been suggested that individual licenses be provided with space for recording violations and that there be a law requiring such record. It has also been suggested that if present penalties are unenforceable, that they be changed in such manner and to such extent that violations shall be unprofitable without depriving the violator of his means of livelihood.

NOW, THEREFORE, your Memorialist, urges, because of the necessity for immediate corrective measures to restore the salmon industry to its former productivity, that appropriate legislation and administrative steps be taken to correct the present critical situation as above indicated and that, an immediate budget of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for carrying out an effective enforcement program, be appropriated by Congress as a wise investment in the preservation, expansion and planned utilization of the Nation's great salmon fisheries resource.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House February 21, 1947.

Passed by the Senate March 1, 1947.

Approved by the Governor, March 7, 1947.

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## HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 17

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF THE TERRITORY  
OF ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Eighteenth Session assembled, respectfully calls your attention to