

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1995

Legislative
Resolve No.

29

Source
HJR 44



Proposing postage stamps honoring wild Alaska salmon and centuries of continued use of wild Alaska salmon for subsistence, sport, and commercial fish harvesters.

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

WHEREAS the cold, clear, clean waters off Alaska's 34,000 mile coast are the world's greatest resource for natural, wild salmon; and

WHEREAS Alaska's rivers and streams are the nurseries for the world's most important and productive runs of wild and natural salmon; and

WHEREAS, in the pristine waters of Alaska, the five species of Alaska salmon mature in an unmatched natural environment that provides them with superior flavor, color, and texture; and

WHEREAS wild Alaska salmon have increased in numbers year after year; and

WHEREAS Alaska's wild and natural salmon are a mainstay of Alaska's complex subsistence economy and lifestyle, providing protein and adding to the rich complexity of Alaska's diverse cultures; and

WHEREAS subsistence harvesting of salmon allows extended families to support themselves in meaningful, productive work in areas of the state that do not have cash economies to sustain the protein needs of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS Alaska's wild and natural salmon play an increasing role in the state's visitor industry, attracting sport anglers from around the world who are served by a growing lodge, charter boat, and tourism industry; and

WHEREAS participation in recreational fishing in Alaska has grown from 46,000 anglers at statehood to 426,514 anglers in 1993; and

WHEREAS there were more than 2,500,000 angler days of fishing in Alaska in 1993; and

WHEREAS sport angler expenditures translate into gross business revenue of about \$500,000,000 and several thousand jobs in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the premier sport fish in Alaska is wild, natural salmon; and

WHEREAS wild Alaska salmon account for more than 90 percent of all salmon harvested commercially in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS exports of wild Alaska salmon help balance the United States trade deficit because more than 50 percent of the Alaska commercial harvest of salmon is sent overseas; and

WHEREAS exports of wild Alaska salmon were worth nearly \$750,000,000 in 1993, the last year for which accurate customs numbers are available; and

WHEREAS more than 35,000 jobs in Alaska rely on the seafood industry and the seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the salmon segment of the seafood industry is the oldest component of the industry and one of the most important elements in the industry;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports recognition of wild Alaska salmon through the issuance of United States postal stamps recognizing the five species of wild Alaska salmon and centuries of continued use of wild salmon, Alaska's most important renewable resource and a resource that is managed on a sustained yield basis for the benefit of subsistence, sport, and commercial harvesters.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Marvin Runyon, Postmaster General, United States Postal Service; 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.