

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 1/27/12

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the governor to designate one seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management**
2 **Council for a sport fish licensee and one seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management**
3 **Council for an individual nominated by an Alaska Native organization that represents**
4 **rural subsistence users.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is a regional council
7 established in 1976 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
8 to oversee management of the region's fisheries; and

9 **WHEREAS** five members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council are
10 nominated by the governor and approved by the United States Secretary of Commerce; and

11 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council possesses primary
12 responsibility for management of fish in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, and Aleutian Islands;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS** the allocation of fish in those waters directly affects the quantity of fish
15 available for harvest by sport fish licensees and subsistence users; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Pacific Fishery Management Council, whose jurisdiction consists of
2 the exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, includes a
3 voting member nominated by a federally recognized Native American tribe; and

4 **WHEREAS** Alaska's Native peoples have the right under federal law to take, for
5 subsistence purposes, fur seals and other marine mammals, sea birds and other migratory
6 waterfowl, and certain species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, all of which
7 are affected by decisions made by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, yet the
8 federally recognized tribal governments of those peoples are not represented on the council;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires the state's natural
11 resources to be managed for the maximum benefit of all of the people of the state; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Constitution of the State of Alaska states that, wherever occurring in
13 their natural state, fish are reserved to the people for common use and shall be maintained on
14 the sustained yield principle; and

15 **WHEREAS** subsistence, as the customary and traditional use of fish for direct
16 personal and family consumption in amounts reasonably necessary for personal or family
17 sustenance, is a high priority among consumptive uses in the state, where an estimated 95
18 percent of rural households consume fish caught for subsistence; and

19 **WHEREAS** sport fishing contributes significantly to the state's tourism industry and
20 general economy; and

21 **WHEREAS** 458,888 sport fishing licenses were issued in the state in 2010; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in a state that is home to 3,000 rivers, 3,000,000 lakes, and 6,640 miles
23 of coastline, protecting opportunities for sport fishers and subsistence users is vital;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
25 governor to designate one seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for a sport
26 fish licensee and one seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for an individual
27 nominated by an Alaska Native organization that represents rural subsistence users.