

**STATE OF ALASKA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2019

Source
CSHR 8(RE)

**House
Resolve No.**
8



Recognizing 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon and supporting an associated global initiative identifying the importance of wild salmon.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon is a global initiative to spread information and stimulate outreach and research to establish the conditions necessary to promote the resilience of wild salmon and people throughout the northern hemisphere; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes understanding of wild salmon, including the present status of wild salmon and wild salmon environments; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes understanding of the ways in which natural environmental variability, climate change, and human factors affect the distribution and abundance of wild salmon; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes using new methods, including new technologies, ideas, and approaches in wild salmon research and performing research in poorly studied regions of the "salmosphere"; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes sharing knowledge and collaborating in the development of new tools for and approaches to restoring, managing, and

sustaining wild salmon by communities, indigenous peoples, youth, harvesters, scientists, resource managers, and policy makers across the northern hemisphere; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes making available historical and current data about wild salmon and wild salmon environments; and

WHEREAS wild salmon have historically been an important part of the diets, economies, and cultures of people on both the east and west coasts of North America; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives have relied on wild salmon for thousands of years, and wild salmon continues to constitute up to 70 percent of the subsistence harvest in many Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS the sustainable wild Alaska salmon commercial fishery contributes over 38,000 jobs and nearly \$2,000,000,000 in annual labor income to the United States economy; and

WHEREAS the state's commercial wild salmon harvest constitutes approximately 50 percent of wild salmon caught worldwide; and

WHEREAS the wild salmon commercial and sport fishing industries in Southeast Alaska, Washington, and Oregon create over \$3,400,000,000 in revenue and over 26,000 jobs each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in British Columbia, Canada, the wild salmon commercial and sport fishing industries generate over \$1,400,000,000 in revenue and 12,400 jobs each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 and 2014, commercial and recreational salmon fisheries in California had an average annual economic effect of \$276,000,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, nine of the 22 chinook stocks along the west coast of the United States and Canada failed to meet escapement goals agreed to by the Pacific Salmon Commission; and

WHEREAS resource managers have identified watersheds across the state in which the salmon stocks are "stocks of concern," and these managers recognize the need for more research to better understand the measures necessary to improve the health of the salmon runs; and

WHEREAS the federal government has spent over \$10,000,000,000 for wild salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest since the 1970s; and

WHEREAS 28 populations of salmon and steelhead on the west coast of the United

States are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS the health of the wild Atlantic salmon is an indicator of the general environmental health of its surroundings; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s and 1980s, as many as 900,000 Atlantic salmon returned annually to the streams and rivers along the east coast of North America; in 2017, it was estimated that only 496,000 Atlantic salmon spawned, and nearly all of those returned to Canadian watersheds; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, where wild Atlantic salmon are listed under the Endangered Species Act, only 1,041 Atlantic salmon returned to rivers in the United States in 2017; and

WHEREAS the federal government has spent tens of millions of dollars for wild salmon recovery along the east coast of the United States, and the amount of funds that would be additionally required for Atlantic salmon to recover is unknown; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon establishes a period to celebrate and educate about the contributions of wild salmon to the health and economy of the state, the United States, Canada, and other nations across the world and to find ways to rebuild salmon stocks that are failing to meet escapement goals;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives recognizes 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon and supports the research efforts that will extend through 2022 as part of the global initiative; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives encourages individuals and local, state, tribal, national, and international governments, corporations, and other relevant organizations to work together to uphold regulatory processes that apply best practices to the management of wild salmon fisheries, to support and invest in scientific research to better understand the wild salmon populations of the northern hemisphere, and to better manage wild salmon populations and the industries wild salmon support; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives celebrates the sustainable wild salmon industry and the health and social benefits the industry provides to the United States and the international community.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington; the Honorable Kate

Brown, Governor of Oregon; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.