

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
RESOLUTION #89-124-FB

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WHEREAS, chinook salmon were placed under a quota in 1985 by the Pacific Salmon Treaty Commission to rebuild coastwide stocks, which were depressed, by 1998; and

WHEREAS, stocks impacted by ceiling management in Southeast Alaska, for which Alaska shares management responsibility, are responding far better than anticipated at this early date - indicator stocks meeting escapement goals have increased from 8 percent in 1982 to 42 percent in 1987, and in total 79 percent showed increased; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska waters has significantly exceeded the population rebuilding projections of the United States-Canada Salmon Treaty, increasing during the 1988 season to 108 percent above the 1986 catch rate; and

WHEREAS, all economic sectors of Southeast Alaska have suffered substantial economic losses under treaty harvest quotas; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll season has been reduced from 169 days in 1979 to only 12 in 1988; and

WHEREAS, longer seasons benefit the Southeast Alaska fishing industry by ensuring higher quality fish products and higher market prices; and

WHEREAS, processors are losing chinook markets and are unable to fill orders with such a short season; and

WHEREAS, the shortened season results in area closures for chinook salmon which have had disastrous economic effects on specific Southeast Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, treaty agreements have shortened the Southeast Alaska troll season so much that Alaskan hatchery fish cannot be harvested to the level promised; and

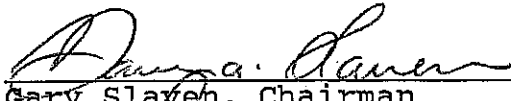
WHEREAS, many other participants in the treaty process, Canada and the states of Washington and Oregon, have enjoyed increase harvests in some of the fisheries harvesting similar stocks, many of which are above treaty levels and some through new federal hatchery production, there has no increase in the base catch ceiling in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, reduction in Southeast Alaska summer chinook salmon troll season first occurred in 1980 prior to treaty implementation so that Alaska has contributed disproportionately more to the coastwide rebuilding program; and

WHEREAS, a fair increase in the Southeast Alaska chinook salmon harvest quota can be allowed without jeopardizing the 1998 goal of the natural stock rebuilding program by focusing on stocks ahead of schedule, including hatchery stocks, thereby allowing benefits to be taken now, to soften the socio-economic impacts and lengthen the season rather than accelerating the rebuilding program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Fisheries respectfully requests the United States section of the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission to work, at its February 1989 meeting to substantially increase the chinook salmon quota to allow Alaska to share in this increase abundance and harvest.

Adopted January 17, 1989
6/0/1 {Demmert absent}


Gary Slayen, Chairman

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Steve Cowper, Governor of the State of Alaska; Don Collinsworth, Commissioner, Pacific Salmon Commission; Senator Kelly, President of the Senate, State of Alaska; Representative Cotton, Speaker of the House, State of Alaska; Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senate; Ted Stevens, U.S. Senate; and Don Young, U.S. House of Representatives.