

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY**

**Introduced:**

**Referred:**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to additional state funding for seafood marketing programs of the Alaska**  
2 **Seafood Marketing Institute.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the seafood industry is one of the cornerstones of Alaska's economy,  
5 supporting tens of thousands of jobs; and

6 **WHEREAS** seafood products, especially salmon products, are some of Alaska's most  
7 valuable foreign export commodities; and

8 **WHEREAS** the global salmon market has changed considerably in recent years,  
9 placing the Alaska salmon industry in economic peril; and

10 **WHEREAS** the increasing supply of farmed salmon from nations with a significantly  
11 cheaper labor market has significantly reduced the domestic price paid for salmon at the ex-  
12 vessel, wholesale, and retail levels and has significantly reduced the market share of the world  
13 salmon market that is supplied by wild Alaska salmon; and

14 **WHEREAS**, due to market factors, numerous salmon processing facilities have  
15 recently ceased operations and additional seafood producers are considering whether to  
16 continue operation of seafood processing facilities in the state; and

1           **WHEREAS** many Alaska salmon fishermen are without markets to sell their fish and  
2 are in danger of being forced into bankruptcy; and

3           **WHEREAS**, during the past 20 years, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has  
4 undertaken an ambitious and successful effort to market Alaska seafood products throughout  
5 the world; and

6           **WHEREAS** the seafood marketing efforts undertaken by the Alaska Seafood  
7 Marketing Institute have been made possible due, in large part, to the seafood marketing  
8 assessment paid by seafood processors in Alaska and the salmon marketing tax paid by  
9 commercial salmon fishermen; and

10           **WHEREAS** additional marketing efforts to promote the sale of wild Alaska salmon  
11 are necessary to preserve the market share for wild Alaska salmon and to prevent further  
12 declines in the economic value of the Alaska salmon fishing and processing industries; and

13           **WHEREAS**, when the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute was established in 1981,  
14 the legislature recognized that it is in the public interest to maintain a cooperative effort  
15 between the state and the private fishing industry to foster expansion of markets for Alaska  
16 seafood throughout the state, the nation, and the world; and

17           **WHEREAS** the seafood marketing efforts of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute  
18 were originally intended to be funded jointly by the state and by seafood processors and  
19 commercial fishermen; and

20           **WHEREAS** the seafood marketing efforts of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute  
21 are funded almost entirely, although indirectly, through the seafood marketing assessment, the  
22 salmon marketing tax, various federal and private grants, and program receipts generated by  
23 the sale of seafood marketing products and services by the Alaska Seafood Marketing  
24 Institute; and

25           **WHEREAS** the Salmon Strategy Task Force convened by Governor Walter J. Hickel  
26 in 1991 recommended that the governor and legislature commit \$10,000,000 to the Alaska  
27 Seafood Marketing Institute to raise consumption of Alaska salmon; and

28           **WHEREAS** global competition in salmon markets has increased several fold since the  
29 recommendation by the Salmon Strategy Task Force and had prompted Governor Tony  
30 Knowles to recommend that \$10,000,000 be appropriated to the Alaska Seafood Marketing  
31 Institute to raise consumption of Alaska salmon; and

1           **WHEREAS** it is appropriate that the state make a greater contribution to the  
2 marketing efforts for Alaska seafood products by providing new additional funding to the  
3 Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute;

4           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that it is appropriate for  
5 the state to expand support for marketing efforts for Alaska seafood products by annually  
6 appropriating an additional \$5,000,000 from the general fund to the Alaska Seafood  
7 Marketing Institute, and that that \$5,000,000 be in addition to the amount of state funding that  
8 is derived from the seafood marketing assessment, the salmon marketing tax, and program  
9 receipts from the sale of seafood marketing products and services.