
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8003

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Oke, Sutherland, Kohl, Drew and Winsley

Read first time 01/12/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The anadromous chinook salmon and coho salmon runs of the
9 State of Washington have declined greatly in recent years; and

10 WHEREAS, Some stocks of chinook salmon have been listed as
11 threatened or endangered, and some coho salmon stocks may soon be
12 listed as threatened or endangered; and

13 WHEREAS, Cutbacks and closures of salmon fisheries have been
14 widespread, and severe economic losses have occurred in fishing ports,
15 in businesses that serve the fishing community, and among fishers; and

16 WHEREAS, Predictions for salmon fisheries are poor for the
17 immediate future; and

18 WHEREAS, A large proportion of Washington origin chinook salmon and
19 coho salmon stocks are harvested by the Canadian commercial and
20 recreational fisheries on the west coast of Vancouver Island; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States/Canada Salmon Treaty was designed to
2 protect and equitably share each country's stocks of salmon; and

3 WHEREAS, Negotiations of the current United States/Canada Salmon
4 Treaty are at an impasse; and

5 WHEREAS, The Alaska delegation to the United States/Canada Salmon
6 Treaty is advocating fishing rates on Canadian origin salmon that are
7 disproportionally high, which results in Canadian overfishing of
8 Washington origin stocks in return for overfishing of Canadian stocks
9 in the Alaskan fishery; and

10 WHEREAS, Continued overfishing will result in destruction of the
11 stocks and bankruptcy of the fishers and businesses that support them,
12 and perhaps in eventual extinction of the stocks;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
14 negotiators for the United States/Canada Salmon Treaty negotiate in
15 good faith to achieve an agreement, and that the agreement achieve
16 conservation of each country's salmon stocks, establish equitable catch
17 sharing, and provide for the restoration of chinook and coho salmon in
18 Washington State.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
21 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
23 Washington, and to the State Department.

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