



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #1

Resolution to Support HB 199

Submitted by: Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA)

Sponsor: Alaska Youth for Environmental Action

Submitted: October 6, 2017

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments General Assembly,

1. **Whereas**, House Bill (HB) 199 is titled "An Act establishing general fish and wildlife permits and major and minor anadromous fish habitat permits for certain activities; establishing related penalties; and relating to the protection of fish and game habitat,"¹
2. **Whereas**, if passed, HB 199 will:
 - a. Better define what constitutes a fish habitat;
 - b. Provide Alaska Department of Fish & Game the authority to issue permits for activities that have the potential to significantly impact fish and wildlife habitats;
 - c. Allow Alaskans to provide input if there's an activity that will impact a fish and wildlife habitat being considered for a permit;
 - d. Initiate penalties for violations;
 - e. Encourage responsible, sustainable development while prioritizing the health of salmon,
3. **Whereas**, salmon play an essential role in Alaska's economy by:
 - a. Being sustainable, unlike industries such as mining and oil;
 - b. Making up $\frac{1}{3}$ of Alaska's seafood wholesale value;
 - c. Contributing 5 billion dollars in value to the national economy²;
 - d. Fueling a tourism industry that had an economic impact of over 4 billion dollars from 2014-2015³,

¹ <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Text/30?Hsid=HB0199A>

² <http://www.aksalmonalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ASMI-Alaska-Seafood-Impacts-Dec2015-low-res.pdf>

³ <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/ded/DEV/TourismDevelopment/TourismResearch.aspx>

4. **Whereas**, salmon are an integral part of Alaskan culture because:
 - a. Numerous communities rely on subsistence fishing as a way of life;
 - b. Indigenous groups, including the Dena'ina, the Ingalik, the Tlingit, the Eyak, the Haida, and the Tsimshian have incorporated salmon into their culture for thousands of years;
 - c. Personal use fishing is an indispensable part of growing up in Alaska for a majority of the population;
 - d. Alaska is home to over 80% of the world's wild salmon runs⁴, making salmon a hallmark of the state,
5. **Whereas**, as a keystone species that 137 other species rely on, salmon play an essential role in Alaska's environment⁴,
6. **Whereas**, negligence to protect salmon runs on the Atlantic and Pacific coast has resulted in irreparable damage to salmon populations,
7. **Whereas**, Alaska's current policies do not prioritize salmon habitat health, and salmon habitat protections laws have not been updated since statehood (1959)⁵,
8. **Whereas**, the economic, environmental, and cultural importance of salmon necessitate their preservation for generations to come,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Government that House Bill 199 is supported by the Alaska Association of Student Governments.

Action Statement: This resolution, if passed, will be used by AYEА in the spring to lobby for the bill's passage as well as sent to the following:

HB 199 Sponsors:

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Rep. Andy Josephson

⁴ <https://www.wildsalmoncenter.org/work/why-protect-salmon/>

⁵ https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=30&docid=15738

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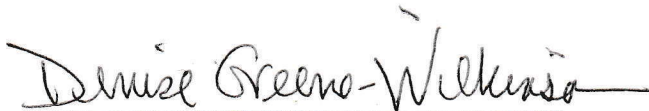
Works Cited

1. <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Text/30?Hsid=HB0199A>
2. <https://www.wildsalmoncenter.org/work/why-protect-salmon/>
3. <http://www.aksalmonalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ASMI-Alaska-Seafood-Impacts-Dec2015-low-res.pdf>
4. <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/ded/DEV/TourismDevelopment/TourismResearch.aspx>
5. http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=30&docid=15738

Passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments at the Fall 2017 Conference.



Kyle Hasse, Vice President



Denise Greene-Wilkinson, Executive Director