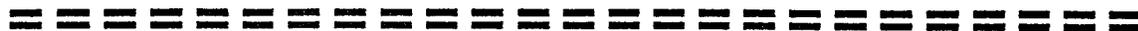


Fairness in Salmon Harvest



**Initiative No.**

*Be it enacted by the people of the State of Alaska*

"An Act relating to the management of salmon"

**Sec. 1.** PURPOSE (a) This act provides that, after maintenance of salmon stocks at sustained yield levels is assured, subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries shall receive a preference to take a portion of the harvestable surplus of salmon stocks. Subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries must be ensured of a reasonable opportunity to take enough salmon necessary to satisfy the harvest needs of those fisheries before other fisheries may be allocated the remaining portion of the harvestable surplus.

(b) This Act does not alter existing or establish new allocations or preferences among subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries.

(c) This Act does not give additional authority to the Board of Fisheries or the Department of Fish and Game, but relies upon the exercise of their respective existing authorities to implement this Act.

**Sec. 2.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to article 5 to read:

Sec. 16.05.735 MANAGEMENT OF ALASKA SALMON STOCKS.

(a) After providing for biological escapement needs of Alaska salmon stocks, the Board of Fisheries and the department shall exercise their respective authorities under this title to reserve a priority for the harvest needs of common consumptive uses for each salmon stock, to the extent that is technically possible, prior to allocating a portion of the harvestable surplus to non-priority uses along the entire migratory path of a stock. The total number of salmon, without regard to the species of salmon, reserved to satisfy the harvest needs of personal use and sport fisheries may not exceed five percent of the total projected statewide harvest of all species of salmon. Personal use and sport fisheries may harvest in excess of five percent of a particular species or stock and or in excess of five percent of the total harvest in a given geographic region of the state. However, the harvest priority for personal use and sport fisheries may not exceed five percent of the total projected statewide salmon harvest.

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(b) All harvests shall be made in a habitat responsible manner. The Board shall adopt regulations establishing methods and means of taking salmon that protects salmon spawning and rearing habitat from damage that will, individually or cumulatively, result in significant reduction in the productivity of salmon stocks.

(c) In this section,

(1) "common consumptive use" means the use of salmon harvested under subsistence, personal use, or sport fishing regulations or statutes;

(2) "harvest needs" means the harvesting capability, using bag limits as established by the Board and the department, of all common consumptive users based on projected participation, and assuming a harvestable surplus of salmon exists after ensuring an adequate biological escapement;

(3) "salmon" means Coho, Chinook, Sockeye, Pink, and Chum salmon that originated in or will return to spawn in Alaskan waters; "salmon" does not include Steelhead or other anadromous fish;

(4) "stock" means a population or aggregation of a particular species that typically possess common characteristics such as area of origin, migration patterns, run timing, habitat, and share in a common gene pool;

(5) "statewide salmon harvest" means the total projected annual harvest, in numbers of fish caught, of all combined species of salmon.