

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT SPORT FISHING LICENSE FEES AND NONRESIDENT KING SALMON STAMP FEES IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS PROVIDED BY RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

#2004-233-FB

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recognize sport fishing as an important Alaskan tradition and pastime; and

WHEREAS, ADF&G's Division of Sport Fish wants to sustain and enhance the opportunities and benefits that recreational fisheries provide; and

WHEREAS, a key component of this effort is maintaining and enhancing our capabilities to meet our current and future needs through hatchery production; and

WHEREAS, production from our hatcheries generates roughly \$45 million annually for Alaska's economy; accounts for between 10-15% of all the angling effort in Alaska; and reduces pressure on our wild stocks, thereby adding to conservation for fully utilized stocks; and

WHEREAS, existing hatchery facilities are aging and are unable to meet either current or future demands; and

WHEREAS, hatchery operations are essential and must continue; and

WHEREAS, ADF&G needs \$5.3 million in additional revenues annually to adequately address this statewide problem; and

WHEREAS, ADF&G proposes an increase in resident and non-resident sport fishing license fees and non-resident king salmon stamp fees to generate this revenue; and

WHEREAS, revenues generated by the fee increase will be used to build a new hatchery in Fairbanks, refurbish and/or rebuild the hatcheries in Anchorage, and to fund hatchery production needs in Southeast Alaska; and

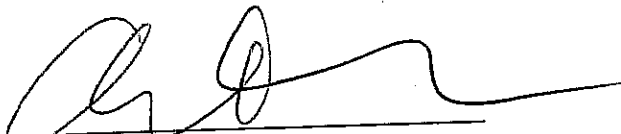
WHEREAS, without an increase in revenues, we will be forced to reduce expenditures on essential programs, such as our ability to monitor wild stocks and fisheries statewide; assess and restore damaged habitats statewide; and to support management activities statewide; and

WHEREAS, these reductions will result in more conservative management and potential lost fishing opportunity; and

WHEREAS, failure to address this problem in a timely manner will also demand increased expenditures to maintain aging facilities; increase pressure on wild stocks (many of which are fully allocated); and increase our need to monitor and assess wild stocks and associated fisheries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Fisheries supports an increase in resident and non-resident license fees and non-resident king salmon stamp fees to enhance the state's hatchery infrastructure and help ensure a bright future for sport fishing in Alaska.

ADOPTED this 17th day of November, 2004, in Anchorage, Alaska.



Art Nelson, Chair