



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Tom Wagoner
Current Version: CS SJR 26 (RES)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Joint Resolution 26

Short Title: Salmon Enhancement in Wilderness Areas

Summary:

- Requests the U.S. Department of Interior and the US Department of Justice to appeal the Ninth Circuit Court's decision in *The Wilderness Society v. US Fish and Wildlife Service*.
- Requests these Departments to seek a temporary emergency stay of the decision to allow the Tustumena Lake salmon enhancement project to continue for this year.

Benefits:

- Impacts future decisions on what activities are permitted inside a designated wilderness area.
- Without the Tustumena project, Cook Inlet/Kasilof River area will lose about 60,000 to 120,000 adult sockeye salmon every year.
- Six million salmon fry will be terminated this year without an emergency stay of the decision

Background:

For about 30 years the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, in cooperation with the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, have stocked Tustumena Lake with about 6 million sockeye salmon every year. The Wilderness Society filed suit that this does not comply with the 1964 Wilderness Act because it is a "commercial enterprise" and does not preserve the "natural conditions" of the Kenai Wilderness. After a District Court ruling, and a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court both ruling in favor of continuing the project, an eleven-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court ruled in favor of the Wilderness Society.