

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 19, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 19, 2017

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Senator McGuire

(Coauthors: Senators Atkins, Hill, Jackson, and Monning)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bloom, Mark Stone, and Wood)

May 25, 2017

Senate Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to salmon fishery restoration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 7, as amended, McGuire. Public resources: salmon: fishery restoration.

This measure would urge state and federal departments and agencies responsible for the stewardship of public resources, as specified, to make collaborative, statewide salmon fishery restoration an urgent and high priority. *The measure would also urge the federal government to undertake all appropriate measures to provide necessary disaster relief for California salmon fisheries for 2016 and 2017.*

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Salmon has been a fundamental and irreplaceable
2 part of the cultural traditions of Native American tribes in
3 California, and a staple of Native American diets, since time
4 immemorial; and

5 WHEREAS, The California salmon fishery is among the oldest
6 and most important historic commercial fisheries in California,
7 and among the most iconic commercial, recreational, and tribal
8 fisheries in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, The California Bay-Delta ecosystem, including
2 the rivers that flow into it, is the most important salmon-producing
3 system south of the Columbia River; and

4 WHEREAS, The Klamath and Trinity Rivers are home to
5 culturally and commercially important, and biologically unique,
6 salmon runs; and

7 WHEREAS, The California salmon fishery annually draws a
8 vast amount of trade and tourism to California; and

9 WHEREAS, A decade ago, the California salmon fishery
10 supported 23,000 jobs and \$1.4 billion in economic activity; and

11 WHEREAS, California salmon contains high levels of omega-3
12 fatty acids, offers abundant health benefits for Californians,
13 including lower cholesterol and lower risk of skin and breast
14 cancer, and is delicious; and

15 WHEREAS, Salmon runs are responsible for the largest transfer
16 of biomass from the oceans to the land on the planet and are vital
17 to the healthy functioning of ecosystems from the coast to the
18 mountains; and

19 WHEREAS, Salmon spawned in California rivers are caught
20 by fishermen in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and as
21 far away as Alaska; and

22 WHEREAS, The health of a salmon population is an important
23 benchmark of the health of its native rivers and ecosystems; and

24 WHEREAS, The Fish and Game Code and the State Water
25 Resources Control Board Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan
26 establish the doubling of wild salmon populations as state policy;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The California salmon fishery was closed from
29 2008 to 2009 due to declining populations and fish kill of salmon
30 resulting from decreased river flows and warm water conditions
31 that caused direct mortality, leading to dramatic impacts on the
32 fishing industry and fishing-dependent communities; and

33 WHEREAS, Salmon populations have declined during
34 California's historic drought; and

35 WHEREAS, Depressed salmon populations in 2015 and 2016
36 have resulted in a shorter fishing season, a reduction in landed fish
37 from 981,000 annually from 1986 to 1990, inclusive, to 92,000 in
38 2016, and severe hardship to the fishing industry and
39 fishing-dependent communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Many salmon populations in California are listed
2 as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered
3 Species Act or the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, or
4 both, including Central Valley winter-run and spring-run Chinook
5 salmon, California Coastal Chinook salmon, and all coho salmon;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Commerce
8 determined a commercial fishery failure for the Yurok Tribe
9 Klamath River Chinook salmon fishery in 2016 due to a fishery
10 resource disaster; and

11 WHEREAS, On May 24, 2017, the Governors of California and
12 Oregon urged the Secretary of Commerce to expedite declaration
13 of a fishery resource disaster for California and Oregon for the
14 2016 and 2017 seasons; ~~now, therefore, be it and~~

15 *WHEREAS, It is critical that further commercial fishery failure*
16 *determinations be made, fishery resource disasters declared, and*
17 *disaster relief provided, for California salmon fisheries for 2016*
18 *and 2017; now, therefore, be it*

19 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
20 *California, jointly, That the Legislature urges state departments*
21 *and agencies, including the Natural Resources Agency, the*
22 *California Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of*
23 *Fish and Wildlife, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department*
24 *of Water Resources, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board,*
25 *and the State Water Resources Control Board, to make*
26 *collaborative, statewide salmon fishery restoration an urgent and*
27 *high priority; and be it further*

28 *Resolved, That the Legislature urges federal departments and*
29 *agencies, including the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of*
30 *Reclamation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the*
31 *National Marine Fisheries Service, to make collaborative, statewide*
32 *salmon fishery restoration an urgent and high priority; and be it*
33 *further*

34 *Resolved, That the Legislature urges the federal government to*
35 *undertake all appropriate measures to provide necessary disaster*
36 *relief for California salmon fisheries for 2016 and 2017; and be*
37 *it further*

38 *Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of*
39 *this resolution to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency,*
40 *to the Secretary for Environmental Protection, to the Director of*

1 Fish and Wildlife, to the Executive Director of the Wildlife
2 Conservation Board, to the Director of Water Resources, to the
3 President of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, to the
4 Chairperson of the State Water Resources Control Board, to the
5 Secretary of the Interior, to the Commissioner of Reclamation, to
6 the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, to the
7 Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, *to the President and Vice*
8 *President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of*
9 *Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each*
10 *Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of*
11 *the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.*