

HOUSE BILL NO. 237

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES EDGMON, Chenault, Austerman, Thomas, Thompson, Joule, Gara, Muñoz, Seaton, Herron, Foster, Kerttula, Dick, Kawasaki, Holmes, Millett, Johansen, Peggy Wilson

Introduced: 4/13/11

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing June 10 of each year as Alaska Wild Salmon Day."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 44.12.120. Alaska Wild Salmon Day.** Alaska Wild Salmon Day is
 5 established on June 10 of each year to celebrate the enormous bounty that wild king,
 6 sockeye, coho, chum, and pink salmon bring to the state year after year. Securing the
 7 right and responsibility to safeguard Alaska wild salmon was a driving force in the
 8 quest for statehood, and the subsequent rebuilding of sustainably managed wild
 9 salmon runs remains among the greatest accomplishments in the state's history. The
 10 deliciousness, purity, and healthfulness of Alaska wild salmon is prized the world
 11 over, bringing the state international esteem and distinction. Wild salmon subsistence
 12 fishing has sustained Alaska Native peoples for thousands of years, from the state's
 13 coastline to hundreds of miles into the Interior. Commercial wild salmon fishing has
 14 been a mainstay industry in the state for well over a century. Personal use and sport
 15 wild salmon fishing are fundamental life pursuits for urban and rural residents alike.

1 Alaska Wild Salmon Day may be observed by educational and celebratory events,
2 projects, and activities to strengthen public resolve to protect Alaska wild salmon and
3 the ecosystems that nourish this phenomenal resource and to increase public
4 awareness of and appreciation for Alaska wild salmon and all Alaska wild salmon
5 fishers.