

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Resources Committee

SPONSOR STATEMENT: SENATE BILL 237

"An Act relating to the policy for management of sustainable salmon fisheries."

In 2001, the Alaska Board of Fish adopted the Statewide Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. This policy recognized that threats to sustainable management do exist, and they justify the development of an explicit statewide umbrella policy to help guide fishery management plans and programs. Given the importance of salmon in Alaska, both for consumptive use and commercial fishing, it is vital to ensure salmon populations are sustained for future generations by codifying this policy into statute.

Senate Bill 237 will strengthen our state's resolve to protect one of our most important resources by

- establishing the fundamental principles for the policy and the criteria that apply these principles to real issues;
- implementing procedures in which this policy will be carried out; and
- clarifying terminology used in the language of the legislation.

SB 237 is companion legislation to HB 189, which is sponsored by Reps. Stoltze and Johnson.

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Version 25-LS1248 \ A

January 29, 2008