

SULLIVAN - SUBSTITUTE (MODIFIED)



AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 3429**

To establish an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended  
to be proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Alaska Salmon Re-  
5 search Task Force Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to ensure that Pacific salmon trends in  
9 Alaska regarding productivity and abundance are  
10 characterized and that research needs are identified;

11 (2) to prioritize scientific research needs for Pa-  
12 cific salmon in Alaska;

1           (3) to address the increased variability or de-  
2           cline in Pacific salmon returns in Alaska by creating  
3           a coordinated salmon research strategy; and

4           (4) to support collaboration and coordination  
5           for Pacific salmon conservation efforts in Alaska.

6 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7           It is the sense of Congress that—

8           (1) salmon are an essential part of Alaska's  
9           fisheries, including subsistence, commercial, and rec-  
10          reational uses, and there is an urgent need to better  
11          understand the freshwater and marine biology and  
12          ecology of salmon, a migratory species that crosses  
13          many borders, and for a coordinated salmon re-  
14          search strategy to address salmon returns that are  
15          in decline or experiencing increased variability;

16          (2) salmon are an essential element for the  
17          well-being and health of Alaskans; and

18          (3) there is a unique relationship between peo-  
19          ple of Indigenous heritage and the salmon they rely  
20          on for subsistence and traditional and cultural prac-  
21          tices.

22 **SEC. 4. ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH TASK FORCE.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
24          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce,  
25          in consultation with the Governor of Alaska, shall convene

1 an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force (referred to in  
2 this section as the "Research Task Force") to—

3 (1) review existing Pacific salmon research in  
4 Alaska;

5 (2) identify applied research needed to better  
6 understand the increased variability and declining  
7 salmon returns in some regions of Alaska; and

8 (3) support sustainable salmon runs in Alaska.

9 (b) COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Task Force  
11 shall be composed of not fewer than 13 and not  
12 more than 19 members, who shall be appointed  
13 under paragraphs (2) and (3).

14 (2) APPOINTMENT BY SECRETARY.—The Sec-  
15 retary of Commerce shall appoint members to the  
16 Research Task Force as follows:

17 (A) One representative from each of the  
18 following:

19 (i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
20 pheric Administration who is knowledge-  
21 able about salmon and salmon research ef-  
22 forts in Alaska.

23 (ii) The North Pacific Fishery Man-  
24 agement Council.

1 (iii) The United States section of the  
2 Pacific Salmon Commission.

3 (B) Not less than 2 and not more than 5  
4 representatives from each of the following cat-  
5 egories, at least 2 of whom shall represent Alas-  
6 ka Natives who possess personal knowledge of,  
7 and direct experience with, subsistence uses in  
8 rural Alaska, to be appointed with due regard  
9 to differences in regional perspectives and expe-  
10 rience:

11 (i) Residents of Alaska who possess  
12 personal knowledge of, and direct experi-  
13 ence with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska.

14 (ii) Alaska fishing industry represent-  
15 atives throughout the salmon supply chain,  
16 including from—

- 17 (I) directed commercial fishing;
- 18 (II) recreational fishing;
- 19 (III) charter fishing;
- 20 (IV) seafood processors;
- 21 (V) salmon prohibited species
- 22 catch (bycatch) users; or
- 23 (VI) hatcheries.

24 (C) 5 representatives who are academic ex-  
25 perts in salmon biology, salmon ecology (marine

1           and freshwater), salmon habitat restoration and  
2           conservation, or comprehensive marine research  
3           planning in the North Pacific.

4           (3) APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF ALAS-  
5           KA.—The Governor of Alaska shall appoint to the  
6           Research Task Force one representative from the  
7           State of Alaska who is knowledgeable about the  
8           State of Alaska's salmon research efforts.

9           (c) DUTIES.—

10           (1) REVIEW.—The Research Task Force  
11           shall—

12                   (A) conduct a review of Pacific salmon  
13                   science relevant to understanding salmon re-  
14                   turns in Alaska, including an examination of—

15                           (i) traditional ecological knowledge of  
16                           salmon populations and their ecosystems;

17                           (ii) marine carrying capacity and den-  
18                           sity dependent constraints, including an  
19                           examination of interactions with other  
20                           salmon species, and with forage base in  
21                           marine ecosystems;

22                           (iii) life-cycle and stage-specific mor-  
23                           tality;

1 (iv) genetic sampling and categoriza-  
2 tion of population structure within salmon  
3 species in Alaska;

4 (v) methods for predicting run-timing  
5 and stock sizes;

6 (vi) oceanographic models that provide  
7 insight into stock distribution, growth, and  
8 survival;

9 (vii) freshwater, estuarine, and marine  
10 processes that affect survival of smolts;

11 (viii) climate effects on freshwater and  
12 marine habitats;

13 (ix) predator/prey interactions be-  
14 tween salmon and marine mammals or  
15 other predators; and

16 (x) salmon productivity trends in  
17 other regions, both domestic and inter-  
18 national, that put Alaska salmon popu-  
19 lations in a broader geographic context;  
20 and

21 (B) identify scientific research gaps in un-  
22 derstanding the Pacific salmon life cycle in  
23 Alaska.

24 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
25 date the Research Task Force is convened, the Re-

1 search Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of  
2 Commerce, the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
3 and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on  
4 Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the  
5 Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
6 Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropria-  
7 tions of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Re-  
8 sources of the House of Representatives, the Sub-  
9 committee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Re-  
10 lated Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations  
11 of the House of Representatives, and the Alaska  
12 State Legislature, and make publicly available, a re-  
13 port—

14 (A) describing the review conducted under  
15 paragraph (1); and

16 (B) that includes—

17 (i) recommendations on filling knowl-  
18 edge gaps that warrant further scientific  
19 inquiry; and

20 (ii) findings from the reports of work  
21 groups submitted under subsection  
22 (d)(2)(C).

23 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

24 (1) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

25 The Research Task Force shall select a Chair and

1 Vice Chair by vote from among the members of the  
2 Research Task Force.

3 (2) WORK GROUPS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Research Task  
5 Force—

6 (i) not later than 30 days after the  
7 date of the establishment of the Research  
8 Task Force, shall establish a work group  
9 focused specifically on the research needs  
10 associated with salmon returns in the AYK  
11 (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim) regions of  
12 Western Alaska; and

13 (ii) may establish additional regionally  
14 or stock focused work groups within the  
15 Research Task Force, as members deter-  
16 mine appropriate.

17 (B) COMPOSITION.—Each work group es-  
18 tablished under this subsection shall—

19 (i) consist of not less than 5 individ-  
20 uals who—

21 (I) are knowledgeable about the  
22 stock or region under consideration;  
23 and

24 (II) need not be members of the  
25 Research Task Force; and



1                   (ii) be balanced in terms of stake-  
2                   holder representation, including commer-  
3                   cial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries,  
4                   as well as experts in statistical, biological,  
5                   economic, social, or other scientific infor-  
6                   mation as relevant to the work group's  
7                   focus.

8                   (C) REPORTS.—Not later than 9 months  
9                   after the date the Research Task Force is con-  
10                  vened, each work group established under this  
11                  subsection shall submit a report with the work  
12                  group's findings to the Research Task Force.

13                  (3) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Re-  
14                  search Task Force shall serve without compensation.

15                  (4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary  
16                  of Commerce shall provide such administrative sup-  
17                  port as is necessary for the Research Task Force  
18                  and its work groups to carry out their duties, which  
19                  may include support for virtual or in-person partici-  
20                  pation and travel expenses.

21                  (e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The  
22                  Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not  
23                  apply to the Research Task Force.

**1 SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF PACIFIC SALMON.**

2       In this Act, the term “Pacific salmon” means salmon  
3 that originates in Alaskan waters.