CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/17/95
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GRUSSENDORF, Williams, Navarre, Mackie, Toohey
SENATOR Taylor

A RESOLUTION

Relating to a ban on trawling in the eastern Gulf of Alaska east of 140 degrees west longitude.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the eastern Gulf of Alaska has been a significant hook and line fishing area for almost 100 years and most of the high value fisheries in the area are fully utilized by the hook and line fishing fleet; and

WHEREAS the level of trawl fishing effort in the eastern Gulf of Alaska is expected to exert undue fishing pressure on fish stocks in the area and displace traditional hook and line fisheries; and

WHEREAS foreign trawl fishing in the Gulf of Alaska resulted in depressed populations of several species of rockfish; and

WHEREAS the eastern Gulf of Alaska contains a unique assemblage of valuable rockfish species in amounts small enough that the rockfish stocks could be easily damaged by large vessel activity; and

WHEREAS, under federal fishing regulations, if any single species in the rockfish complex reaches its overfishing level, the entire rockfish complex and any other fishery that...
might take any of the overfished rockfish species are closed; and

WHEREAS the trawl fishery in the eastern Gulf of Alaska can significantly disrupt
the traditional fisheries on which 3,000 Southeast Alaska hook and line fishermen depend; and

WHEREAS the narrowness of the continental shelf and continental slope in the eastern
Gulf of Alaska concentrates trawl fishing effort in a small area and as a result prevents
recovery of trawl fishing areas and may permanently impoverish the ecosystem of the eastern
Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Southeast Alaska area contains limited smooth bottom areas suitable
for trawls, but many rocky areas that support an abundant, diverse, but fragile deep water
habitat; and

WHEREAS the impact of trawl roller gear and trawl doors could significantly affect
corals and associated hard bottom species; and

WHEREAS, only by closing the eastern Gulf of Alaska east of 140 degrees west
longitude to trawl fishing, will the unique assemblage of local marine resources be protected;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific Fishery
Management Council through the United States Secretary of Commerce is respectfully
requested to immediately implement permanent regulations closing the eastern Gulf of Alaska
east of 140 degrees west longitude to pelagic and bottom trawling.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary, U.S.
Department of Commerce; the Honorable Richard B. Lauber, chair of the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
the Alaska delegation in Congress.