

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR WARD

Introduced: 4/27/01

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the labeling of finfish as wild or farmed.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** there are significant differences between farmed finfish and wild finfish;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS** farmed finfish spend their entire lives in captivity, and the raising of
6 farmed finfish in captivity involves the ingestion of significant amounts of antibiotics, dyes,
7 and other chemicals by the fish; and

8 **WHEREAS** wild finfish develop in the wild oceans and provide more healthful food
9 for the consumer than farmed finfish; and

10 **WHEREAS** the ingestion of significant amounts of antibiotics, dyes, and other
11 chemicals by farmed finfish may concern some consumers of finfish products; and

12 **WHEREAS** a consumer should be able to determine when purchasing finfish whether
13 the fish has been farmed using antibiotics, dyes, and other chemicals or is wild; and

14 **WHEREAS** confusion as to whether finfish has been farmed using antibiotics, dyes,
15 and other chemicals or is wild may cause consumers to avoid finfish completely; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaska prides itself on its wild salmon and other finfish, and the sale of

1 wild finfish is a significant part of the state's economy; and

2 **WHEREAS** labeling finfish products as having been farmed using antibiotics, dyes,
3 and other chemicals or as wild would help consumers to make intelligent purchasing decisions
4 and would enable consumers to purchase finfish products with confidence as to what they
5 were buying; and

6 **WHEREAS** a national approach to the labeling of farmed finfish would be helpful
7 because finfish products are shipped to markets all over the United States;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
9 Congress to pass legislation that would require finfish to be labeled as having been farmed
10 fish using antibiotics, dyes, and other chemicals or as wild fish.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-
12 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom
13 Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert,
14 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
15 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
16 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.