

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 4/28/95

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MOSES, Austerman, Finkelstein, Navarre, Rokeberg, Williams

SENATORS Taylor, Torgerson, Leman, Lincoln, Hoffman, Salo, Zharoff, Duncan, Halford

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to reduction of wanton waste in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea
2 fisheries.

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

4 WHEREAS more fish were discarded in the federally managed fisheries of the North
5 Pacific Ocean than were landed by American fishermen in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1992;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, in 1994, 25,881,596 kilograms of halibut and 1,866,272 kilograms of
8 herring were discarded by fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1994, 15,459,253 crab were discarded by fisheries in the North Pacific
10 Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1994, 195,609 salmon were harvested in groundfish fisheries of the
12 North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

13 WHEREAS these discarded herring, crab, and salmon are resources managed by the
14 State of Alaska that were intercepted in offshore federal waters; and

15 WHEREAS these resources are the economic and cultural lifeblood for many Alaskans
16 who depend on the sea for their livelihoods and subsistence; and

1 **WHEREAS** marine wildlife species in Alaska marine waters that depend on fish for
2 food are faced with declining populations and a potential listing as endangered species; and

3 **WHEREAS** this continued wanton waste undermines any long-term management
4 strategy for sustained commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries, and places the rural
5 communities of Alaska at risk; and

6 **WHEREAS** efforts to implement severe penalties against vessels responsible for high
7 bycatch and discard rates have failed; and

8 **WHEREAS** minimizing the catch of undersized fish and reducing wanton waste will
9 conserve fisheries resources for present and future generations of subsistence users,
10 commercial and recreational fishermen, seafood industries, coastal communities, consumers,
11 and the nation; and

12 **WHEREAS** fisheries can technically or operationally reduce waste and the incidental
13 taking of nontarget species if given economic incentives or if appropriate regulatory measures
14 are applied;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the wanton waste now
16 occurring in federal fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea is of utmost
17 ecological, social, and economical importance; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
19 Congress to amend the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or to enact
20 other legislation, encompassing a broad range of measures to reduce wanton waste in North
21 Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries, including harvest priority incentives for clean fishing
22 practices and other management tools.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
24 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker
25 of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore
26 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bob Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
27 Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable
28 Richard B. Lauber, chair of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the
29 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
30 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.