

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, under federal fishing regulations, if any single species in the rockfish
16 complex reaches its overfishing level, the entire rockfish complex and any other fishery that

1 might take any of the overfished rockfish species are closed; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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