

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 62**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 3/11/96**

**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Requesting the federal government to purchase surplus 1995 Alaska canned pink**  
**2 salmon.**

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

**4 WHEREAS** a surplus of more than 1,700,000 cases of 1995 Alaska canned pink  
**5 salmon is predicted to be present in warehouses on June 30, 1996; and**

**6 WHEREAS** six major seafood companies in Alaska, including Tyson Seafoods, have  
**7 advised fishermen that, because of the huge overstock of 1995 canned pink salmon, they will**  
**8 not purchase pink salmon in 1996; and**

**9 WHEREAS** the lack of markets for pink salmon poses a threat of economic disaster  
**10 to the majority of Alaska fishermen and their families; and**

**11 WHEREAS** the lack of markets for Alaska salmon will especially hurt fishermen in  
**12 rural areas of the state, particularly Alaska Natives, who will not be able to engage in**  
**13 commercial fishing that is often their only source of cash income; and**

**14 WHEREAS** the Alaska commercial salmon industry supports more than 39,000  
**15 employees and more than 12,000 licensed fishermen and is the largest private employer in**  
**16 Alaska; and**

1       **WHEREAS** canned pink salmon is a valuable, healthy, and wholesome source of high  
2 quality protein, vitamins, and minerals that is widely needed throughout the country and  
3 world; and

4       **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture operates surplus removal  
5 programs to purchase surplus commodities for school lunch programs, export programs,  
6 assistance to low income persons, and the federal prison system; and

7       **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture requires salmon products  
8 purchased by the department to have been packed under a National Marine Fisheries Service  
9 "Type 1" inspection program that was not in place in Alaska during 1995; and

10       **WHEREAS** pink salmon canned in Alaska during 1995 was subject to strict safety and  
11 sanitation standards and to a state of the art hazard analysis/critical control point sanitation  
12 program developed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; and

13       **WHEREAS** an inspection of 1995 Alaska canned pink salmon by the National Marine  
14 Fisheries Service, Inspection Services Division, would demonstrate that the safety and  
15 sanitation standards for canned pink salmon in 1995 in Alaska easily equal the safety  
16 standards under a "Type 1" inspection program; and

17       **WHEREAS** significant areas of the 34,000 miles of the pristine coastline of Alaska  
18 may be polluted by large numbers of unharvested pink salmon that will return to spawn and  
19 die in Alaska's streams and rivers and then decompose and contaminate coastal and marine  
20 environments; and

21       **WHEREAS** the lack of markets for Alaska pink salmon will erode the tax base of the  
22 State of Alaska and municipalities that rely on taxes on the sale and purchase of fish to  
23 support government operations;

24       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the  
25 United States Department of Agriculture waive the requirement for "Type 1" inspection of  
26 canned pink salmon purchased under the surplus removal programs managed by the  
27 Agricultural Marketing Service and that the United States Department of Agriculture purchase  
28 surplus stocks of 1995 Alaska canned pink salmon.

29       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
30 United States; the Honorable Daniel R. Glickman, Secretary, United States Department of  
31 Agriculture; the Honorable Lon S. Hatamiya, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service,

- 1 United States Department of Agriculture; the Honorable William E. Ludwig, Administrator,
- 2 Food and Consumer Service, United States Department of Agriculture; and to the Honorable
- 3 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
- 4 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.