

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20(RES) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 4/21/95

Offered: 4/11/95

Sponsor(s): SENATORS HOFFMAN, Halford

REPRESENTATIVE Ivan

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program, the
2 inshore/offshore allocation process, and the North Pacific Fishery Management
3 Council Comprehensive Rationalization Program.

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

5 WHEREAS the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program is
6 a fisheries development program involving the federal Department of Commerce, the North
7 Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska, and 56 Bering Sea coast, Aleutian
8 Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

9 WHEREAS the CDQ program has set aside 7.5 percent of the available Bering Sea
10 pollock quota during 1992 through 1995 for Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof
11 Islands communities; and

12 WHEREAS the amount of pollock available for harvest under the CDQ program is
13 more than 100,000 metric tons per year and has an approximate annual value of \$20,000,000;
14 and

15 WHEREAS the CDQ program allocates the available harvest of pollock among
16 eligible communities, local fishermen's organizations, and local economic development

1 organizations who in turn reinvest the proceeds from the harvest and processing of the pollock
2 in additional local fisheries development projects; and

3 **WHEREAS** the CDQ program has been expanded to include halibut and sablefish
4 (black cod); and

5 **WHEREAS** the CDQ program is important to the economic development of the
6 Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

7 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council established the CDQ
8 program as a component of the inshore and offshore allocation of Bering Sea pollock; and

9 **WHEREAS** the CDQ program represents an unparalleled opportunity for long-term
10 stable economic development for the communities of the Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands,
11 and Pribilof Islands; and

12 **WHEREAS** the social and economic welfare of many Alaska coastal communities is
13 largely dependent upon continued access to and utilization of the vast pacific cod and pollock
14 resources off the shores of Alaska; and

15 **WHEREAS** access to and utilization of the pacific cod and pollock resources has been
16 assured under the inshore/offshore allocation adopted by the North Pacific Fishery
17 Management Council; and

18 **WHEREAS** the increased harvesting capacity of the large industrialized offshore
19 fishing fleets have developed an advantage over the catcher boat fleet that harvests fish for
20 shoreside processing plants; and

21 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is preparing to adopt a
22 Comprehensive Rationalization Plan (CRP) for groundfish and crab in the Bering Sea and
23 Aleutian Islands area; and

24 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's CRP will limit access
25 in the groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska, which are important to Alaska's coastal
26 communities and to Alaska's seafood industry;

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific Fishery
28 Management Council is respectfully requested to allocate Bering Sea groundfish and crab to
29 the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups and support the
30 continuation of the inshore/offshore allocation process as parts of any Comprehensive
31 Rationalization Plan (CRP) that the council prepares; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific
2 Fishery Management Council is also respectfully requested to ensure that any CRP developed
3 by the council guarantees access for Alaska's small boat fleet and coastal residents to
4 groundfish and crab; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that any allocation of crab
6 be made in concert with state management of the crab resources in the Bering Sea and not
7 affect the state's ability to continue to manage those crab resources; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that nothing in this
9 resolution should be construed as endorsing the federal individual fishery quota (IFQ) process,
10 as endorsing reallocations of fishery resources from one group of Alaskans to another, or as
11 a grant of federal jurisdiction over Alaska fisheries.

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