

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/3/98

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MACKIE, Taylor

REPRESENTATIVES Elton, Mulder

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting reduction of fishing capacity in the Bering Sea fishing fleet and
2 Americanization of the fishing fleet through passage of S. 1221, the "American
3 Fisheries Act," by the United States Congress.

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

5 WHEREAS overcapitalization of fish harvesting capacity in the Bering Sea has
6 resulted in highly compressed, derby-style fisheries; and

7 WHEREAS overcapitalized fisheries typically lead to excessive exploitation of a
8 fishery resource, often resulting in a precipitous decrease in the economic yield of the fishery
9 resource; and

10 WHEREAS the State of Alaska values sustainable fishery management principles,
11 which include minimizing bycatch and waste, maximizing utilization of the fishery resources
12 harvested, minimizing adverse effects of fishing gear on fish habitat, and maximizing
13 economic returns on the public fishery resource for the benefit of Alaska communities and the
14 citizens of the United States on the whole; and

15 WHEREAS Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska has, with the cosponsorship of Senators
16 Murkowski, Breaux, and Hollings, introduced S. 1221, the "American Fisheries Act"; and

1 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would effectively limit fishing capacity in the Bering Sea fishing
2 fleet through vessel size limitations and ownership requirements; and

3 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would limit the maximum length, tonnage, and shaft horsepower
4 of vessels engaging in domestic fisheries in the United States navigable waters and exclusive
5 economic zone; and

6 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would require that at least 75 percent of the controlling interest
7 of a vessel engaged in the fisheries in the United States navigable waters and exclusive
8 economic zone be owned by citizens of the United States; and

9 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would correct a loophole in the Commercial Fishing Industry
10 Vessel Anti-Reflagging Act of 1987 that allowed vessels that were rebuilt in foreign shipyards
11 to enter the fisheries off Alaska; and

12 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would permanently prohibit federal loan guarantees for any vessel
13 intended for use as a fishing vessel that does not meet size, tonnage, horsepower, and
14 domestic ownership criteria; and

15 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would effectively promote further Americanization of the fisheries
16 of the United States;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports those provisions of S.
18 1221, the "American Fisheries Act," that would reduce the fishing capacity of the Bering Sea
19 fishing fleet and promote the Americanization of the fisheries of the United States; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
21 Congress to pass S. 1221.

22 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
23 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond,
24 President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S.
25 House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
26 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
27 the Alaska delegation in Congress.