

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Introduced: 3/1/17

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A RESOLUTION

Expressing the strong support of the Alaska State Legislature for the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center; and urging the University of Alaska to maintain the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center as an important resource in the state.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska seafood industry employs more workers than any other private sector industry in the state, employing 60,000 workers annually and providing those workers with \$1,600,000,000 in annual earnings; and

WHEREAS significant economic benefits accrue to the state directly from the activities of the state's seafood industry; in 2014, the seafood had a harvest value of \$1,900,000,000 and a first wholesale value of \$4,200,000,000; and

WHEREAS the number of seafood industry jobs in the state that require technical and professional skill is increasing and the state is at a crossroads in its need to diversify and expand its economy; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, a group of Alaskans from the coastal regions of the state worked together to develop plans for a Fishery Industrial Technology Center that would

1 provide teaching, research, and services relating to the seafood industry, through the
2 University of Alaska, to citizens and businesses in the state; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1981, the Fishery Industrial Technology Center was established in
4 state statute as part of the University of Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** the statutory duties of the center include creating employment
6 opportunities in the state's fishing industry, providing training to citizens of the state in the
7 harvesting, processing, and conservation of the state's fishery resources, providing research
8 and development activities to enhance the effectiveness and economic viability of the state's
9 fishing industry, and encouraging joint projects between industry and government to use
10 industrial experience and government programs to enhance the productivity of the industry;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** teaching, training, research, and technical assistance carried out at the
13 center serves all Alaskans, being primarily delivered by Alaska Sea Grant and fisheries
14 faculty who, in fiscal year 2016, provided workforce training to 265 industry members,
15 educational opportunities to 25 graduate and undergraduate students, and technical assistance
16 to over 70 seafood businesses, tribes, and communities; and

17 **WHEREAS** the Department of Environmental Conservation has designated the center
18 and its faculty as "process authorities" for the purposes of certifying the safety of the state's
19 seafood; and

20 **WHEREAS** the state built the Alfred Owen Building in 1991 to be the home for the
21 Fishery Industrial Technology Center using \$10,800,000 from the state's settlement of the
22 criminal case originating from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, and, in 2011, the name of the
23 center was changed to the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center; the facility is 20,000
24 square feet in size and has five dedicated laboratories, a pilot plant 5,000 square feet in size,
25 three freezers, and numerous offices and conference rooms; and

26 **WHEREAS** the state built the center on Near Island, on land that the City of Kodiak
27 donated to the University of Alaska; and

28 **WHEREAS** the activities of the center are guided by a seven-member Fishery
29 Industrial Technology Policy Council, composed of two members who represent the state's
30 seafood processing industry, two members who are commercial fishermen in the state, and
31 three public members who, together, assist the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska

1 in preparing an annual report to the Alaska State Legislature on the center's activities; and

2 **WHEREAS** the center is a unique and well-positioned hub of knowledge, inquiry,
3 research, and work that serves many industry partners, including the Department of Fish and
4 Game, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Commerce,
5 Community, and Economic Development, the Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska
6 Fisheries Development Foundation, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, the North Pacific
7 Fisheries Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Department of
8 Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development,
9 and other entities; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alfred Owen Building is a key asset in delivering the opportunities
11 that the center is statutorily directed to provide and, in 2016, the legislative research services
12 described the building as continuing to be ready to meet the center's statutorily prescribed
13 duties;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the Kodiak
15 Seafood and Marine Science Center, formerly the Fishery Industrial Technology Center, as a
16 statewide hub for research, training, and technical assistance efforts to support fisheries across
17 the entire state and urges the University of Alaska to find a solution that keeps the center
18 operating and stable.