



Alaska State Legislature

1967

Source:

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to the violation of the 12-mile limit by foreign fishing vessels.

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

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard, on March 2, 1967, seized a Russian trawler which was fishing off the coast of Mitrofanina Island within one mile of shore; and

WHEREAS this is but one example of repeated intrusion of territorial waters by foreign nations; and

WHEREAS to allow foreign nations to break international law in the face of impending negotiations puts the United States in the position of negotiating from a position of weakness; and

WHEREAS it was only through the diligent efforts of the United States Coast Guard that this Soviet vessel was captured after an attempted escape; and

WHEREAS only the minimum penalty was imposed in this instance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Coast Guard is commended by the Fifth Legislature for its action in detecting and apprehending the Russian ship; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government in the future is urged to prosecute vigorously any ship seized for fishing violations and to impose maximum penalties provided for by law as an example to all nations that the United States will not tolerate continued violation of its territorial waters by foreign vessels.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary, Department of State; the Honorable Ramsey Clark, Acting Attorney General, Department of Justice; Mr. Richard McVeigh, United States Attorney, Anchorage, Alaska; Admiral Willard J. Smith, Commandant, United States Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Joseph R. Scullion, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District; and the Honorable E.L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U.S. Senators and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.