



Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

HCSSJR 89

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to the establishment of an exclusive fisheries zone for the United States.

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

WHEREAS the present 12-mile exclusive fisheries zone of the United States is not adequate for the conservation of the stock of fish which this country will need to utilize fully in order to remain a major fishing nation; and

WHEREAS the United States has slipped to sixth place in world fisheries behind such nations as the Soviet Union and Communist China, which intend to expand their fishing efforts in the North Pacific; and

WHEREAS the commercial fishermen of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the economy of the United States as a whole, are being detrimentally affected by the heavy flow of imported foreign seafood products, gear conflicts and other competition from the massive foreign fleets on the fishing grounds, and by the depletion of precious resources because of over-fishing and destructive fishing practices of foreign fleets; and

WHEREAS the United States has failed to implement fully two provisions from Geneva Conventions which would give our nation valuable bargaining tools in fisheries negotiations with other nations, the first of which states that sedentary species of fish on the Continental Shelf are part of the shelf and are considered to be the exclusive property of the coastal nation and the second of which provides for conservation of the living resources of the high seas and allows the United States to designate conservation areas and promulgate conservation measures to protect these resources;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States is respectfully requested to enact legislation declaring that this

nation's exclusive fisheries zone is expanded to a depth of 300 meters or to 100 miles off the coast of the United States, whichever is greater.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary, Department of the Interior; the Honorable Donald L. McKernan, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior for Fisheries and Wildlife; the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Richard B. Russell, President Pro Tempore of the U. S. Senate; all Governors of the Coastal States in the United States; the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.