



# Alaska State Legislature

1972

Source:

SJR 66 am H

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66

Relating to the permanent assignment of additional Coast Guard patrol vessels in Alaska.

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

WHEREAS traditional American and especially Alaska fisheries are increasingly being taken over by sophisticated foreign fishing fleets; and

WHEREAS currently there are neither adequate numbers of Coast Guard personnel nor any modern Coast Guard ships stationed in Alaska equipped with the latest electronic gear that have the maneuverability necessary to adequately and continuously patrol Alaska's some 31,383 statute miles of tidal shoreline; and

WHEREAS the Coast Guard does have ships with the capacity to improve greatly its surveillance activities in Alaska waters, as is evidenced by the temporary assignment of the "Mellon", a class of vessel uniquely designed for more adequate protection of our fisheries; and

WHEREAS the "Mellon" has been assigned to temporary duty in Alaska waters, but will shortly be forced to return to its home base; and

WHEREAS, unless more adequate equipment and personnel are assigned on a permanent basis to duty in Alaska, the detrimental economic impact will be felt not only in maritime states, but eventually throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, unless increased protection of the traditional Alaska fisheries is immediately forthcoming, the economic impact on Alaska will be particularly devastating;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that it commends the U.S. Coast Guard for its foresight in designing ships of the secretary class and in particular for assigning a secretary-class ship to temporary duty in Alaska waters; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Coast Guard is urgently requested to assign one or more ships of the "Mellon" class to duty in Alaska on a permanent basis, the only means by which our fisheries may receive increased protection from foreign encroachment.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable John A. Volpe, Secretary, Department of Transportation; Admiral Chester R. Bender, Commandant, United States Coast Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.