

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

CSSJR 57(Res)

51



Relating to foreign fishing in the international water of the Bering Sea.

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

WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act has contributed to the rapid "Americanization" of the fisheries within the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Alaska's coast; and

WHEREAS harvesters and processors in the United States are increasing their ability to utilize the vast fisheries resources in the EEZ, including, but not limited to groundfish, salmon, and herring; and

WHEREAS Alaska's coastal communities are benefiting from the economic activity caused by the Americanization of the fisheries resources off Alaska's coast; and

WHEREAS those fishery resources are worth billions of dollars annually to the United States; and

WHEREAS the area of the Bering Sea outside the EEZ of the United States and outside the jurisdiction of the Soviet Union is not managed by any country or international organization; and

WHEREAS the fish stocks in the EEZ are not stationary, but circulate beyond the 200-mile boundary, where they are subject to unlimited and uncontrolled harvesting that is detrimental to the stocks; and

WHEREAS the extent of the harvest in the international water of the Bering Sea is unknown, but is estimated to be in excess of 1,000,000 metric tons a year; and

WHEREAS Japanese, Chinese, Polish, and South Korean

commercial fishing vessels conduct harvest operations in the international water of the Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS unregulated foreign fishing in the international water of the Bering Sea adversely affects United States fishing efforts in the EEZ and the development of markets for United States fishery products; and

WHEREAS this area is used as a staging area for illegal fishing within the United States' EEZ by foreign vessels; and

WHEREAS the lack of observers and the lack of accurate data on the fishery resources and harvest level in the international water of the Bering Sea significantly hinder decision-making on stocks in the United States' EEZ; and

WHEREAS prompt action is necessary to protect the fishery resources of the United States that migrate into international water and to protect the integrity of the Magnuson Act;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to seek negotiations with the Soviet Union to implement harvesting controls in this area; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to direct the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Commerce to work collectively to monitor fishing activities in the Bering Sea; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to seek agreements with foreign nations whose vessels fish in the international water of the Bering Sea that would provide for annual reporting of fishing activities in that area; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Commerce is respectfully requested to direct that, in accordance with the permit conditions established by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the United States observer program be expanded to include foreign fishing vessels operating in the international water of the Bering Sea; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard is respectfully requested to order increased patrols in the international water of the Bering Sea; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government take steps necessary to prevent the overharvest of fishery resources of United States origin in the international water of the Bering sea, including the extension of United States' jurisdiction over the area.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Shultz, Secretary of State; to the Honorable C. William Verity, Jr., Secretary of Commerce; to Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr., Commandant, United States Coast Guard; to James O. Campbell, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.