

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HCS CSSJR 75 (Res) am H

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Relating to reauthorization and amendment of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

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

WHEREAS the reauthorization process for the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides an excellent opportunity to review, assess, and amend the Act in light of recent developments in the fisheries of the United States; and

WHEREAS an important issue to be addressed by the Congress during the reauthorization process is the allocation of fishery resources between offshore and land based fishing fleets and processing facilities; and

WHEREAS, although the intent of the Act to "Americanize" the fisheries within the United States exclusive economic zone has been achieved, this has occurred so rapidly that most small coastal communities in Alaska have been unable either to enter these fisheries or to maximize their participation in them; and

WHEREAS many persons who reside in the coastal villages on the Bering Sea would like to participate in the multi-billion dollar groundfish fishery that lies at their doorstep, but the high capital investment needed to enter the fishery has prevented most village fishermen from doing so; and

WHEREAS a key component of the ability of village fishermen to obtain the necessary capital to become participants in this fishery is guaranteed year-round access to the resource that could be provided for through the addition of a community development quota provision to the Act; and

WHEREAS Senator Ted Stevens has incorporated this concept into S. 1900 that amends and reauthorizes the Act and proposes a five percent set-aside for communities that satisfy established

criteria as "economically disadvantaged communities"; and

WHEREAS the recent dramatic expansion of the offshore catcher-processor fleet poses a significant risk of overcapitalization in the domestic fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS overcapitalization of a fishery carries a risk of over utilization of the fishery; and

WHEREAS land based fishing fleets and processing facilities are less able to exploit new and distant fisheries than are mobile offshore catcher-processor fleets after local fishery resources are overexploited; and

WHEREAS the long-term dependence of land based fishing fleets and processing facilities on local fishery resources promotes conservation and sustained yield of those resources by those fishing fleets and processing facilities; and

WHEREAS the regional fishery management councils should be given authority to allocate fishery resources between land based and offshore fishing fleets and to protect the fishery-dependent economies of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS some members of the fisheries and marine science communities have advocated limiting entry into Alaska bottomfish fisheries to prevent over utilization of these fishery resources; and

WHEREAS over 90 percent of the catcher-processor fleet harvesting bottomfish and crab species in Alaskan waters are based outside of Alaska; and

WHEREAS a limited entry system requiring experience in bottomfish fisheries would prohibit many Alaska residents from participating in these fisheries; and

WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives has approved a proposal by participants in the offshore catcher-processor fleet to add two members who reside in Washington or Oregon to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

WHEREAS the addition of two non-Alaskan members to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is not justified by the actions of the council or the status of the fishery resources off Alaska and is an inappropriate attempt to divert the focus of the council from conservative management of the developing offshore fisheries off Alaska and to promote the interests of the burgeoning offshore catcher-processor fleet; and

WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives passed legislation containing the proposal to increase the membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the increase in the membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and is disappointed in the actions of the United States House of Representatives; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the proposal to give authority to fishery management councils to allocate fishery resources between land based and offshore

fishing fleets in order to protect the fishery based economies of coastal communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Congress to adopt the amendment to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act proposed in S. 1900 to provide assistance to economically disadvantaged fishing communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the imposition under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of any limited entry system for bottomfish fisheries in Alaska that does not assure equity of entry for Alaska residents, does not address quota considerations for new fishermen, or has not been subject to an extensive public hearing process; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the legislature's highest priority that the current geographic composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council be retained and that Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Frank Murkowski are respectfully requested to oppose the proposal to add new members to the council; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that Congressman Don Young and the other House members who serve on the conference committee are respectfully requested to oppose the proposal to add members to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and to support the Alaska fishing industry when they serve as members of the conference committee on the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act reauthorization bill.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; 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.