

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

CSSJR 52 (Res)

133



Requesting the National Marine Fisheries Service to approve a groundfish observer training program at the University of Alaska for federal fishery observer programs off Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the domestic groundfish fishery off Alaska has rapidly expanded in recent years and continues to grow; and

WHEREAS there is a requirement for the use of trained observers on board groundfish vessels to collect essential scientific data necessary to manage the domestic groundfish fishery; and

WHEREAS there have been several recent proposals to greatly increase the number of observers on board domestic groundfish vessels off Alaska; and

WHEREAS the existing training program conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service at its Seattle facilities will not be able to generate the number of trained personnel necessary to effectively implement the groundfish observer program; and

WHEREAS Sea Grant colleges, such as the University of Alaska, have the technical capability to train domestic groundfish observers, thus providing an important service to the federal government; and

WHEREAS the University of Alaska has experience in training observers for domestic fisheries and has expressed interest in becoming an observer training center in a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service dated February 23, 1990; and

WHEREAS an observer training program at the University of Alaska would provide the Alaska fishing industry with an alternative source of trained observers, thus increasing the availability of trained observers and fostering price competition for

observer services; and

WHEREAS the lower operating costs of the observer program that will result from competition would reduce the costs of a mandatory observer program that are associated with observer training; and

WHEREAS an approved groundfish observer training program at the University of Alaska can be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service as a model for other Sea Grant colleges that are interested in conducting training for observers deployed in other fisheries throughout the nation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the National Marine Fisheries Service to approve the University of Alaska groundfish observer training program and establish procedures for certifying the Alaska trainees in time for the groundfish fishery off Alaska in the fall of 1990.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., U.S. Secretary of Commerce; John Knauss, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; William W. Fox, Jr., Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; Steven Pennoyer, Regional Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service; 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.