

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MOSES, Austerman, Finkelstein

Introduced: 1/25/95

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to reduction of wanton waste in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea
2 fisheries.

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

4 WHEREAS more fish were discarded in the federally managed fisheries of the North
5 Pacific Ocean than were landed by American fishermen in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1992;
6 and

7 WHEREAS over 740,000,000 pounds of fishery resources were dumped overboard in
8 the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean, including 16,000,000 pounds of halibut, 1,000,000
9 pounds of herring; and

10 WHEREAS over 16,000,000 crab were discarded by fisheries in the North Pacific
11 Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1993, over 370,000 salmon were harvested in groundfish fisheries of
13 the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea; and

14 WHEREAS these discarded herring, crab, and salmon are resources managed by the
15 State of Alaska that were intercepted in offshore federal waters; and

16 WHEREAS these resources are the economic and cultural life blood for many

1 Alaskans who depend on the sea for their livelihoods and subsistence; and

2 **WHEREAS** this continued wanton waste undermines any long-term management
3 strategy for sustained commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries, and places the rural
4 communities of Alaska at risk; and

5 **WHEREAS** marine wildlife species in Alaska marine waters that depend on fish for
6 food are faced with declining populations and potential listing as endangered species; and

7 **WHEREAS** minimizing the catch of undersized fish and reducing wanton waste will
8 conserve fisheries resources for present and future generations of subsistence users,
9 commercial and recreational fishermen, seafood industries, coastal communities, consumers,
10 and the nation; and

11 **WHEREAS** fisheries can technically or operationally reduce waste or the incidental
12 taking of nontarget species if given economic incentives or through appropriate regulatory
13 measures;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the wanton waste now
15 occurring in federal fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea is of utmost
16 importance ecologically, socially, and economically; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
18 Congress to amend the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or to enact
19 other legislation, encompassing a broad range of measures to reduce wanton waste in North
20 Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries, including harvest priority incentives for clean fishing
21 practices and other management tools.

22 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the
23 United States Department of Commerce; the Honorable Richard B. Lauber, chair of the North
24 Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
25 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
26 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.