

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1995

Source
CSHJR 23(FSH)

Legislative
Resolve No.
35



Relating to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's inshore/offshore allocations and the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program.

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

WHEREAS the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program is a fisheries development program involving the federal Department of Commerce, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska, and 56 Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

WHEREAS the inshore/offshore allocation of fishery resources assures Alaska's coastal communities, which are economically dependent on fishing, access to the fishery resources off their coast; and

WHEREAS the current inshore/offshore allocations and the CDQ program are scheduled to expire in December 1995; and

WHEREAS the CDQ program has set aside 7.5 percent of the available Bering Sea pollock quota during 1992 through 1995 for Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

WHEREAS the amount of pollock available for harvest under the CDQ program is more than 100,000 metric tons per year and has an approximate annual value of \$20,000,000; and

WHEREAS the CDQ program allocates the available harvest of pollock among eligible communities, local fishermen's organizations, and local economic development organizations who in turn reinvest the proceeds from the harvest and processing of the pollock in additional local fisheries development projects; and

WHEREAS the CDQ program is important to the economic development of the Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council established the CDQ program as a component of the inshore and offshore allocation of Bering Sea pollock; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, according to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Department of Labor, Department of Revenue, and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, the Alaska seafood processing industry harvested more than 5,500,000,000 pounds of fish; processed these fish in more than 500 large and small Alaska seafood processors registered with the state; paid fish harvesters \$1,400,000,000; provided more than 35,000 shore-based jobs in Alaska; spent \$280,000,000 to support its activities; paid over \$80,000,000 in taxes and cash benefits to the state and Alaska's coastal communities; paid \$10,000,000 for salmon enhancement; paid \$700,000 in fisheries related and marine mammal research and \$3,200,000 for domestic marketing of Alaska seafood products; invested \$1,000,000,000 in shoreside plants; paid \$11,000,000 to local governments in municipal fish taxes; and paid over \$3,000,000 in local real and personal property taxes; and

WHEREAS, in Western Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, and Kodiak, shore-based processors pay over \$400,000,000 annually to fish harvesters; process 1,250,000,000 pounds of crab, groundfish, salmon, herring, and halibut; employ over 13,000 people; pay over \$90,000,000 in annual payroll; purchase \$45,000,000 in goods, services, and utilities; pay over \$7,000,000 in local raw fish taxes; and in 1992 paid over \$900,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports reauthorization of the inshore/offshore allocations and CDQ program before they expire in December 1995.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Richard Lauber, chair of the 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.