

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES GRUSSENDORF, Williams**

**Introduced: 1/25/95**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to a ban on trawling in the eastern Gulf of Alaska.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the eastern Gulf of Alaska has been a significant hook and line fishing  
4 area for almost 100 years and most of the high value fisheries in the area are fully utilized by  
5 the hook and line fishing fleet; and

6 **WHEREAS** the level of trawl fishing effort in the eastern Gulf of Alaska is expected  
7 to exert undue fishing pressure on fish stocks in the area and displace traditional hook and line  
8 fisheries; and

9 **WHEREAS** foreign trawl fishing in the Gulf of Alaska resulted in depressed  
10 populations of several species of rockfish; and

11 **WHEREAS** federal fishing regulations require that all fisheries that take a species of  
12 fish must be closed when the allowable biological catch for the species is reached; and

13 **WHEREAS** the trawl fishery in the eastern Gulf of Alaska can significantly disrupt  
14 the traditional fisheries on which 3,000 Southeast Alaska hook and line fishermen depend; and

15 **WHEREAS** the narrowness of the continental shelf and continental slope in the eastern  
16 Gulf of Alaska concentrates trawl fishing effort in a small area and as a result prevents  
17 recovery of trawl fishing areas and may permanently impoverish the ecosystem of the eastern

1 Gulf of Alaska; and

2           **WHEREAS** the Southeast Alaska area contains limited smooth bottom areas suitable  
3 for trawls, but many rocky areas that support an abundant, diverse, but fragile deep water  
4 habitat; and

5           **WHEREAS** the impact of trawl roller gear and trawl doors could significantly affect  
6 corals and associated hard bottom species; and

7           **WHEREAS** only by closing the eastern Gulf of Alaska east of 140 degrees west  
8 longitude to trawl fishing will the local marine resources be protected;

9           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Secretary  
10 of Commerce is respectfully requested to immediately implement emergency and permanent  
11 regulations closing the eastern Gulf of Alaska east of 140 degrees west longitude to pelagic  
12 and bottom trawling.

13           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary, U.S.  
14 Department of Commerce; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
15 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
16 the Alaska delegation in Congress.