

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES AUSTERMAN, Navarre, Grussendorf

Introduced: 3/24/95

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A RESOLUTION

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

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

4 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (hereinafter
5 "the Act") established a fishery conservation zone, now known as the exclusive economic zone
6 (EEZ), out to 200 miles from the shoreline of Alaska and the other states to protect, conserve,
7 and manage the extensive fisheries resources of the continental shelf; and

8 WHEREAS coastal communities of Alaska lie adjacent to, and depend upon, the
9 fishery resources of the federally managed EEZ in the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and North
10 Pacific Ocean off Alaska; and

11 WHEREAS the Act provides for the management of the fishery resources of the EEZ
12 through regional fishery management councils and by the National Marine Fisheries Service;
13 and

14 WHEREAS the United States Congress is currently considering the reauthorization of
15 the Act; and

16 WHEREAS several issues of national and regional importance are being considered

1 as part of the reauthorization process for the Act;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
3 Congress to reauthorize the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act with the
4 following provisions:

5 (1) authorize the regional fishery management councils to minimize the bycatch
6 of unwanted species, sizes, or sexes of fishery resources and to promote full utilization of
7 fishery resources;

8 (2) require the regional fishery management councils to establish and
9 implement protections against overfishing of all species of fishery resources;

10 (3) establish reasonable restrictions on direct, personal, and financial conflicts
11 of interest by members of the regional fishery management councils, provided that those
12 restrictions recognize that minor insignificant conflicts are inevitable and acceptable given the
13 nature of the membership of the regional fishery management councils;

14 (4) establish a moratorium, for a minimum of three years, upon the
15 establishment and implementation of individual fishery quota systems for federally managed
16 fisheries; and

17 (5) authorize the establishment and implementation of community development
18 quota or community protection set-aside programs for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
19 areas to aid fishery development and recognize the economic dependence of coastal
20 communities upon fishing; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that fees, taxes, or royalties
22 levied on the harvesting or processing of fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone
23 must recognize and give credit for other federal, state, and local fees, taxes, and royalties also
24 levied on those same activities and that revenue derived from fees, taxes, or royalties levied
25 on the harvesting or processing of fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone be utilized
26 for the management, enforcement, research, and administration of fishery programs in the
27 areas where the revenue was derived; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the National Marine
29 Fisheries Service should receive the funding necessary to provide the regional fishery
30 management councils with sufficient biological information to implement controls against
31 overfishing and with the research needed to understand and manage fishery resources; and be

1 it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully opposes any
3 proposal to alter the established composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management
4 Council.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chair,
6 United States Senate, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Don
7 Young, Chair, United States House of Representatives, Committee on Public Lands and
8 Resources; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens, member of the Alaska delegation in Congress.