

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRUSSENDORF, Austerman

Introduced: 1/16/98

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting passage of S. 1221, the "American Fisheries Act," by the United States
2 Congress.

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

4 WHEREAS Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska has, with the cosponsorship of Senators
5 Murkowski, Breaux, and Hollings, introduced S. 1221, the "American Fisheries Act"; and

6 WHEREAS S. 1221 would require that at least 75 percent of the controlling interest
7 of a vessel engaged in the fisheries in the United States navigable waters and exclusive
8 economic zone be owned by citizens of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS fishing vessels that do not satisfy the 75 percent United States ownership
10 standard will not be eligible for individual fishing quota shares or other limited access permits
11 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and

12 WHEREAS S. 1221 would prohibit new large fishing vessels that are more than 165
13 feet long, are greater than 750 tons, or have greater than 3,000 shaft horsepower from entering
14 domestic fisheries in the United States navigable waters and exclusive economic zone; and

15 WHEREAS S. 1221 would phase out existing factory trawlers and other fishing
16 vessels that are longer than 165 feet, are greater than 750 tons, or have greater than 3,000

1 shaft horsepower from domestic fisheries in the United States navigable waters and exclusive
2 economic zone by prohibiting those vessels from being replaced by other vessels at the end
3 of their useful lives; and

4 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would correct a loophole in the Commercial Fishing Industry
5 Vessel Anti-Reflagging Act of 1987 that allowed at least 14 factory trawlers that were rebuilt
6 in foreign shipyards to enter the fisheries off Alaska; and

7 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would permanently prohibit federal loan guarantees for any vessel
8 intended for use as a fishing vessel that would be longer than 165 feet, be larger than 750
9 tons, or have greater than 3,000 shaft horsepower after being built or rebuilt; and

10 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would conform with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
11 and Management Act and international law by allowing foreign fishing vessels to harvest
12 fishery resources in United States waters if United States fishing vessels do not have sufficient
13 capacity to harvest the entire allowable catch in a fishery; and

14 **WHEREAS** non-United States citizens should not receive permanent access privileges
15 to United States fishery resources when there are United States citizens that can harvest those
16 resources; and

17 **WHEREAS** S. 1221 would further one of the primary goals of the original Fishery
18 Conservation and Management Act -- Americanization of the fisheries of the United States;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports S. 1221, the "American
20 Fisheries Act," and respectfully requests the Congress to pass S. 1221.

21 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
22 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond,
23 President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S.
24 House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
25 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
26 the Alaska delegation in Congress.