

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 55

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES AUSTERMAN, Moses, Elton

Introduced: 1/30/98

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the allocation of pollock and Pacific cod.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
4 Management Act require that fishery management measures "take into account the importance
5 of the fishery resources to fishing communities in order to provide for the sustained
6 participation of such communities"; and

7 **WHEREAS** many Alaska communities are dependent on the pollock fishery for social
8 and economic needs, including employment, for providing harvesting opportunities for fishing
9 vessels delivering to mother ships and onshore processors, for providing fishery resources for
10 seafood processors, and for local as well as state tax revenues; and

11 **WHEREAS** the pollock fishery off the coast of Alaska is greatly overcapitalized; and

12 **WHEREAS** the overcapitalization of the pollock fishery off the coast of Alaska is
13 caused by foreign-built factory trawler vessels designed to fish anywhere in the world; and

14 **WHEREAS** the first allocation of pollock between inshore and offshore fisheries was
15 made by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in 1989 because the entire pollock
16 quota for the Gulf of Alaska was taken in a six-week period due to the overcapitalization of
17 factory trawler vessels; and

1 **WHEREAS** factory trawler vessels have the opportunity to harvest fishery resources
2 from other areas of the world, but Alaska fishing communities are dependent on the fishery
3 resources adjacent to their shores; and

4 **WHEREAS** mother ships and onshore processors provide markets to local vessels; and

5 **WHEREAS** the current federally established allocation of pollock in the Bering Sea
6 provides that 65 percent of the pollock quota goes to the offshore factory trawler vessels and
7 the remaining 35 percent goes to United States catcher vessels that deliver their catch onshore;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the current allocation of pollock will have the effect of reducing the actual
10 harvest share of the inshore sector of the industry and thus negatively affect the fishery-
11 dependent communities of Alaska because of reduced harvest quotas and the lack of mobility
12 of the inshore fishing vessels; and

13 **WHEREAS** the allocation of pollock between the inshore and offshore sectors of the
14 industry for the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea will expire after 1998;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the
16 North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopt a policy that maintains the current
17 allocations of pollock and Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska to vessels that deliver to the
18 inshore sector of the industry; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
20 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopt a policy that allocates a majority of the
21 pollock resource in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area to vessels that deliver to the onshore
22 and mother ship processing sectors of the industry.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William M. Daley, Secretary
24 of Commerce; Rick Lauber, Chair, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the
25 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
26 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.