

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR LEMAN

Introduced: 2/16/98

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the fisheries management fee proposed by President Clinton.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** President Clinton has proposed in his Fiscal Year 1999 budget a fisheries
4 management fee to fund the management and enforcement services of the National Oceanic
5 and Atmospheric Administration; and

6 **WHEREAS** the proposed fisheries management fee would be derived from a tax of
7 up to one percent on the ex-vessel value of all fish harvested by commercial fishermen; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska commercial fishermen would pay between \$10,000,000 and
9 \$12,000,000 of the \$20,000,000 in annual revenue the fisheries management fee is expected
10 to generate from all fisheries nationwide; and

11 **WHEREAS** the proposed management fee would impose a unique burden on Alaska
12 commercial fishermen who produce more fish than the rest of the United States combined; and

13 **WHEREAS** the proposed management fee would have a negative effect on the
14 economic competitiveness of the Alaska seafood industry; and

15 **WHEREAS** the seafood industry is the largest source of private sector jobs in Alaska;
16 and

1 **WHEREAS** commercial fishermen and seafood processors in Alaska are already
2 burdened with a variety of taxes and user fees, including a raw fish tax, marine fuel tax,
3 licensing fees, fishery landing tax, salmon enhancement tax, seafood marketing tax, and
4 seafood marketing assessment; and

5 **WHEREAS** the total value in 1995 of the above-mentioned taxes and user fees
6 exceeded \$68,000,000;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully opposes the
8 imposition of the proposed fisheries management fee; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
10 Governor and the Alaska delegation in Congress to oppose the proposed fisheries management
11 fee and work to ensure the fee is not included in the Fiscal Year 1999 federal budget approved
12 by the Congress.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
14 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice President of the United States and President
15 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of
16 Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and to the
17 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
18 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.