

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Crawford, Chenault

Introduced: 4/16/03

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, State Affairs, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting Alaska's independent commercial fishermen and Alaska's fish processing**
2 **industry and opposing the establishment of processor quota shares.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature supports the commercial fishermen of
5 Alaska, who are the lifeblood of our coastal communities and who provide economic
6 opportunity and diversity for our coastal communities; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature supports the Alaska fish processing industry
8 which provides investment in the state and is the largest employment base in many Alaska
9 coastal communities; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that commercial fishing is and
11 will remain the predominant economic base for the majority of our coastal communities; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature supports the free enterprise system; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that federal fishery management
14 in the 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States can have dramatic effects on
15 the economic growth and stability of Alaska coastal communities; and

16 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has proposed a

1 rationalization plan for management of the crab stocks in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
2 area and is currently developing a rationalization plan for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish
3 stocks; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab plan incorporates processor
5 quota shares, which designate that 90 percent of the fishermen's catch must be sold to
6 designated processors; and

7 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's recommendation for
8 processor control of a fishery is unprecedented in the United States; and

9 **WHEREAS** processor quota shares limit a fisherman's ability to sell to any other
10 market by reducing or eliminating competition among processors; and

11 **WHEREAS** processors who are not granted processor quota shares will be placed at a
12 serious competitive disadvantage and may discontinue all processing business affecting other
13 fisheries including salmon;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports healthy relationships
15 between fisherman, processors, and Alaska coastal communities that strengthen the
16 commercial fishing industry and the free enterprise system; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the North Pacific
18 Fishery Management Council's proposal to establish processor quota shares.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Don Evans, United States
20 Secretary of Commerce; to each member of the United States Senate Committee on
21 Commerce, Science and Transportation; to each member of the United States House of
22 Representatives Committee on Resources; to each member of the North Pacific Fishery
23 Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski,
24 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
25 delegation in Congress.