

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/26/10

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Resources

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Requesting the Alaska Congressional delegation to introduce and seek passage of an**  
2 **amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to**  
3 **create four new voting seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to be**  
4 **filled by appointment of members of federally recognized tribes or Alaska Native**  
5 **organizations who are not employed by a community development quota program or the**  
6 **pollock industry.**

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

8 **WHEREAS** thousands of individuals and families in the Alaska Native community  
9 have a vested interest in and are dependent on the success of the state's diverse fisheries,  
10 especially the salmon fisheries; and

11 **WHEREAS** Native individuals and families have participated in traditional harvesting  
12 of Alaska's fisheries for millennia; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in contemporary times, Alaska Natives have participated in the state's  
14 commercial fisheries with skill, determination, and economic motivation at a level that

1 matches any user group in the industry; and

2 **WHEREAS**, through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management  
3 Act and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska and the United  
4 States of America provide management oversight, regulatory control, and policy development  
5 affecting the state's offshore fisheries; and

6 **WHEREAS** the composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is  
7 dominated by state and industry voices that do not advocate or represent the subsistence needs  
8 of Alaska's rural tribal peoples; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state's federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native organizations  
10 need to be engaged in the management of the salmon stocks and ecosystems of the state, for it  
11 is on those stocks and ecosystems that the people depend for subsistence and, in some cases,  
12 for their economic livelihood; and

13 **WHEREAS** the discretionary powers of the governor to make recommendations for  
14 appointment to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council do not provide for consistent  
15 participation by members of federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native organizations; and

16 **WHEREAS** the establishment of tribally designated voting seats filled by  
17 representatives without ties to community development quota programs or the pollock  
18 industry would serve to ensure fairness and subdue potential conflicts;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska  
20 Congressional delegation to introduce and seek passage of an amendment to the Magnuson-  
21 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to create four new voting seats on the  
22 North Pacific Fishery Management Council to be filled by appointment of members of  
23 federally recognized tribes or Alaska Native organizations who are not employed by a  
24 community development quota program or the pollock industry.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the  
26 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
27 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.