

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/1/24
Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the Joint Legislative Seafood Industry Task Force.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the seafood industry is one of the cornerstones of the state's economy,
4 supporting tens of thousands of jobs, and seafood has a multi-billion dollar economic impact
5 in the state; and

6 **WHEREAS** the considerable changes in the global salmon market in recent years
7 have placed the state's seafood industry in economic peril, threatening not only the main
8 engine of the rural economies of the state but also a significant contributor to urban
9 economies and is causing harmful revenue losses to the state's general fund and to municipal
10 budgets; and

11 **WHEREAS** decreased consumer demand has resulted in the volume of United States
12 seafood retail sales falling below benchmarks established before the COVID-19 pandemic,
13 reversing substantial gains earned in 2020 and 2021; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, global harvest, including the state's harvest and competing
15 Russian harvest, increased supply for many key state seafood products; and

16 **WHEREAS** preliminary data show that prices paid to both fishermen and processors

1 in calendar year 2023 were historically low for many key state seafood species; and

2 **WHEREAS** state seafood harvesters are in danger of being without markets and being
3 forced into economic distress; and

4 **WHEREAS** numerous seafood processing facilities have recently stopped operations
5 or plan to do so before the 2024 fishing season because of market factors and difficulty in
6 obtaining operating loans; and

7 **WHEREAS** seafood is a renewable resource that is becoming increasingly unique in
8 the global market and can provide immeasurable economic benefit to this state in perpetuity;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Joint Legislative
10 Seafood Industry Task Force to address those elements of the crisis in the state seafood
11 industry that can be solved through governmental policy and action on the part of the
12 industry; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall develop a long-term vision for the
14 state seafood industry as a critical element of the state's economic future; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include recommending

16 (1) legislative and administrative means by which government can assist the
17 state's seafood industry in response to changing economics;

18 (2) public policy options that account for effects on communities that are
19 severely affected by the crisis in the state's seafood industry;

20 (3) improvements for the coordination of the harvesting, processing, and
21 marketing of seafood;

22 (4) new seafood product development;

23 (5) improvements to the marketing efforts of the state seafood industry;

24 (6) methods to improve the quality of the state's seafood products;

25 (7) a long-term strategic plan for the state's seafood industry; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the task force shall conduct the
27 business of the task force with a statewide vision of the crisis in the state's seafood industry
28 and the need to find solutions to the crisis; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall be composed of seven members, as
30 follows:

31 (1) four members of the legislature, appointed as follows:

1 (A) two members from the senate appointed by the president of the
2 senate;

3 (B) two members from the house of representatives appointed by the
4 speaker of the house of representatives;

5 (2) two public members who are representatives of the United Fishermen of
6 Alaska or the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, appointed jointly by the president of
7 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives; and

8 (3) the commissioner of fish and game or the commissioner's designee; and be
9 it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the task force shall be appointed to
11 represent the statewide seafood industry as a whole and not just a particular region or
12 harvesting sector of the industry; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same
14 manner as the original appointment; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
16 of representatives shall jointly appoint a legislative member of the task force as chair of the
17 task force; staff of the legislator who chairs the task force may provide administrative and
18 other support to the task force; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall meet at the call of the chair; and be
20 it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a majority of the task force constitutes a quorum; and
22 be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the legislature serving on the task
24 force are entitled to per diem and travel expenses and other members serving on the task force
25 may seek reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses from the member's respective
26 organization; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that members of the task force shall meet virtually or use
28 other electronic means to reduce task force expenses to the fullest extent practicable; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and
30 recommendations to the legislature by January 21, 2025, and may make any interim reports it
31 considers advisable; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force is terminated at 11:59 p.m. on
2 February 1, 2025.