

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MRS. DIMOCK

2 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 29

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

5 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; THE CONGRESS OF THE
6 UNITED STATES; THE SECRETARY OF STATE; THE SECRETARY OF THE
7 INTERIOR, AND THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA;

8 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of
9 Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled, respectfully
10 represents:

11 WHEREAS, a new and ominous ~~serious~~ threat to the fishery
12 resources of Alaskan waters has appeared; and

13 WHEREAS, an Embassy dispatch from the United States Embassy
14 in Tokyo, dated February 16, 1953, advises that the Japanese
15 fishing fleet will, this year, enter Alaskan coastal waters for
16 the purpose of fishing for an expected catch of one million,
17 one hundred thousand king crab during a five month period extend-
18 ing from the last of April through September; and

19 WHEREAS, the dispatch further advises that a five thousand
20 ton mother ship the "Tekai Maru", equipped with a two-line crab
21 cannery capable of producing three hundred cases per day, to-
22 gether with twelve catcher boats carrying with them approximate-
23 ly four thousand miles of tangle net gear and crews of approxi-
24 mately four hundred and twenty-one Japanese fishermen, will
25 enter Alaskan waters by the end of April, 1953 and over which
26 the United States has no control; and

27 WHEREAS, this new encroachment upon the fishing waters of
28 Alaska is possible under the terms of a treaty between the United
29 States and Japan entered into in 1952, whereby the people of

- 1 -

H. J. M. No. 29

*Jul
1952*

1 Japan were granted the right to fish for red salmon west of the
2 175° of East Longitude, and were further granted the right to
3 enter Alaskan coastal waters to within three miles of the Alaskan
4 shoreline for the purpose of fishing for bottom fish, crab and
5 other shellfish; and

6 WHEREAS, during the 1952 fishing season the Japanese
7 fishing fleet in the area west of the 175th meridian and in Alaskan
8 waters, caught 2,102,787 salmon, of which 673,503 were red
9 salmon, large numbers of which were destined for the fisheries
10 of the Bristol Bay; and

11 WHEREAS, the salmon fisheries of Alaska have become seriously
12 depleted, and this Japanese operation threatens to exterminate
13 the crab fisheries of the Territory with resultant irreparable
14 damage to the economy and well-being of the Territory and its
15 residents; and

16 WHEREAS, king crab fishing has been a lucrative enterprise
17 for a considerable number of years and has added greatly to the
18 wealth of the Territory; and

19 WHEREAS, the people of Alaska and of the United States
20 were not given proper representation at the negotiation and
21 signing of the aforesaid treaty with Japan in order to more
22 fully safeguard and protect their rights and the rights of the
23 fishermen of the United States to fish in Alaskan waters;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the
25 Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled,
26 respectfully prays, on behalf of the people of Alaska and of
27 the United States, that immediate and positive action be taken
28 by the Government of the United States to investigate and
29 prevent the threatened ~~ruin~~ and destruction of the

1 salmon and crab fisheries of Western Alaska which contribute
2 vitally to its economic well-being; that immediate steps be
3 taken to revise the terms of the existing treaty, to prohibit
4 fishing in the water east of the 175th meridian by other than
5 American citizens, or that a new agreement be entered into with
6 the Empire of Japan to protect and safeguard the great fisheries
7 of Alaska from further encroachment by foreign fishing fleets,
8 and to protect the rights of citizens of the United States
9 who engage in fishing in Alaskan waters.

10 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

*Policy - 3 mile limit because US wants rights
to fish up to within 3 miles of coasts
of other nations.*