

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the limitation of
6 fishing gear.

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

8 WHEREAS it is necessary to exercise the police powers of the
9 state for the protection of the welfare and economic good of the
10 commercial salmon industry and the people of the state; and

11 WHEREAS the system of an open salmon fishery wherein any
12 number of gear units may be fished without restriction, has caused
13 a dangerous and excessive pressure on the state's commercially
14 valuable and dwindling commercial salmon resource; and

15 WHEREAS the system of open and unrestricted entry of gear
16 into the fishery has caused the need for stringent regulations
17 which have in turn reduced the efficiency of individual gear units
18 while the total number of units has increased; and

19 WHEREAS the salmon resource has shown a cyclic but downward
20 trend in abundance while the total number of gear units constantly
21 increases without regard to the number of salmon available in the
22 resource; and

23 WHEREAS the competition among fishermen which results from
24 the system of open fishery is extremely wasteful, is reducing the
25 value of the salmon resource as a source of tax revenue to the
26 state, have undesirable social and economic effects on the people
27 of the state and prevent proper management of the salmon fisher-
28 ies; and

29 WHEREAS the salmon resources of Western Alaska are now subject

1 to exploitation on the high seas by fishermen of another nation
2 using highly efficient gear under an extremely lenient regulatory
3 regime, causing the aforesaid ill effects of the open fishery
4 system to be intensified in the territorial waters of Western
5 Alaska;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Fish and Game is
7 directed to undertake a study to determine the maximum amount of
8 fishing gear which should be permitted for fishing in the various
9 salmon gear registration areas of this state and to limit, by
10 regulation, the amount of gear which may be used by individual
11 fishermen or vessels in any gear registration area where conser-
12 vation of the salmon resource requires such regulation; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Fish and Game, with
14 the assistance of the Department of Law, is directed to study
15 means and methods of limiting the number of units of commercial
16 fishing gear in salmon gear registration areas and to submit its
17 recommendations for any constitutional amendments or suggested
18 legislation which may, in its opinion, be required to authorize
19 limitation of the number of units of commercial fishing gear in
20 salmon gear registration areas to the Legislative Council by
21 September 1, 1965, for its review and recommendations and sub-
22 sequent referral to the Legislature by January, 1966 for its
23 consideration.

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