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Referred: Resources

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the value and effectiveness  
6 of the International North Pacific  
7 Fisheries Commission.

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

9 WHEREAS the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, in  
10 existence for over 10 years, has failed to take strong enough measures to  
11 cope with the detrimental effects of massive foreign fishing fleets harvest-  
12 ing groundfish in Alaska coastal waters and North American salmon on the  
13 continental shelf; and

14 WHEREAS the 1958 Geneva Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the  
15 Living Resources of the Continental Shelf recognized the "special interest"  
16 that a nation has in the conservation of living resources in any high-seas  
17 area adjacent to its territorial sea even though its own nationals do not  
18 fish there; and

19 WHEREAS Article 7 of the convention further provides that the coastal  
20 nation may, in an emergency, unilaterally declare nondiscriminatory conserva-  
21 tion regulations which will be binding on other nations; and

22 WHEREAS numerous emergencies do exist, especially in the reduction of  
23 certain groundfish stocks such as Pacific Ocean Perch, and the intermingling  
24 of Asian and North American Salmon on the continental shelf; and

25 WHEREAS this gap in conservation, perpetuated by the commission, makes  
26 it possible for high-seas salmon fleets of other nations to wastefully intercept  
27 Bristol Bay immature red salmon west of the treaty line, contributing, in  
28 low years of the Bristol Bay cycle, to economic disaster for Alaska fisher-  
29 men; and

1           WHEREAS in view of the world need for high protein food now and in the  
2 near future it constitutes an offense against humanity to fail to employ  
3 sound conservation measures where needed to restore or maintain a fishery;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS where forceful recommendation of conservation remedies and  
6 strong implementation of international treaty is urgently needed, the North  
7 Pacific Commission has supplied only diplomatic polite language which has  
8 proved to be meaningless, ambiguous, and of no effect;

9           BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States is respectfully  
10 requested to assess the accomplishments of the North Pacific Fisheries  
11 Commission in light of its mandate for conservation under international law,  
12 and institute basic reforms in the commission itself or, in the alternative,  
13 consider proposing on an international basis, the establishment of stronger  
14 and more effective machinery to implement the critically needed conservation  
15 measures contemplated and acknowledged by foreign nations under current  
16 international treaty.

17           COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
18 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable William P. Rogers,  
19 Secretary of the Department of State; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel,  
20 Secretary of the Department of the Interior; the Honorable John W.  
21 McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Richard B.  
22 Russell, President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and to the Honorable Ted  
23 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable  
24 Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation  
25 in Congress.  
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