

Original sponsors: Peratrovich, Bronson
and Deveau

Offered: 3/24/70
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 95

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the value and effective-
6 ness 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 been unsuccessful to a large degree in its
11 attempts to convince the State Department to take strong enough measures
12 to cope with the detrimental effects of massive foreign fishing fleets
13 harvesting groundfish in Alaska coastal waters and North American salmon on
14 the continental shelf; and

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS this gap in conservation, perpetuated by the State Department,
27 makes it possible for high-seas salmon fleets of other nations to wastefully
28 intercept Bristol Bay immature red salmon west of the treaty line, contri-
29 buting, in low years of the Bristol Bay cycle, to economic disaster for

1 Alaska fishermen; and

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

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

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States is respectfully
11 requested to assess the accomplishments of the State Department with respect
12 to the recommendations of the commission in light of its mandate for con-
13 servation under international law, and institute basic reforms in the power
14 of the commission itself or, in the alternative, consider proposing on an
15 international basis, the establishment of stronger and more effective
16 machinery to implement the critically needed conservation measures contem-
17 plated and acknowledged by foreign nations under current international treaty.

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