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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to participation by Alaska
6 in the Conference on the Law of
7 the Sea.

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

9 WHEREAS an International Conference on the Law of the Sea is scheduled
10 to be held in Geneva in 1973 and any agreement reached by the conference
11 will have a deep and profound influence on Alaskan fisheries for generations
12 to come; and

13 WHEREAS the preliminary proposals by the Department of State appear
14 to offer little or no protection for either our national or Alaskan
15 fisheries; and

16 WHEREAS our coastal fishery resources are being seriously depleted
17 due largely to the effect of unregulated foreign fishing conducted without
18 regard to sound conservation principles; and

19 WHEREAS conservation is urgently needed, both to maintain our fishery
20 resources on a sustainable yield basis and to secure a sound economic future
21 for our state's and nation's fisheries; and

22 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has, of all 50 states, the largest coast-
23 line, measuring 5,580 statute miles or 45 per cent of our nation's total
24 coastline and 31,383 statute miles of tidal shoreline; and

25 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has innumerable fishing ports and villages,
26 one of which, Kodiak, is the second largest fishing port in the entire
27 United States; and

28 WHEREAS the fisheries industry, and fisheries related services, provide
29 Alaska's largest source of income, having a total value of more than

1 \$200,000,000 annually; and

2 WHEREAS our fisheries industry is the largest employer of Alaska's
3 citizens; and

4 WHEREAS representation in the Department of State delegation to the
5 Conference on the Law of the Sea does not include the State of Alaska, its
6 citizens, or members of its fisheries industry; and

7 WHEREAS a state which has nearly half of the total coastline of the
8 entire United States should most certainly have some representation at a
9 conference which so vitally affects its major industry and substantial
10 source of livelihood;

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the President of the
12 United States is respectfully requested to direct the Department of State
13 to include adequate and fair representation from the State of Alaska,
14 considering its major significance as a fishery in the United States, in
15 the delegation to the Conference on the Law of the Sea to be held in Geneva
16 in 1973; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of State also be directed to
18 conduct hearings before August 31, 1972 for the purpose of obtaining testi-
19 mony from the citizens of Alaska on matters in which they are so deeply and
20 personally involved, in Juneau, the capital city of the state; in Kodiak,
21 the largest fisheries port in the state; in Anchorage, the largest city in
22 the state and center of transportation and commerce; and in Fairbanks, site
23 of the University of Alaska's Institute of Marine Research; and that this
24 testimony be used in preparation of the position of the United States on
25 proposals affecting fisheries of the United States and particularly of
26 Alaska which will be considered at the conference.

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
29 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Spiro T. Agnew, Vice-
President of the United States; the Honorable William P. Rogers, Secretary,

1 Department of State; the Honorable Peter G. Peterson, Secretary Designate,
2 Department of Commerce; the Honorable J. W. Fulbright, Chairman, Senate
3 Foreign Relations Committee; the Honorable Thomas E. Morgan, Chairman, House
4 Foreign Affairs Committee; the Honorable Ronald Reagan, Governor, State of
5 California; the Honorable Dan Evans, Governor, State of Washington; the
6 Honorable Tom McCall, Governor, State of Oregon; and to the Honorable Ted
7 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick
8 Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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