

Introduced: 2/9/73  
Referred: Resources and  
Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MCGILL

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to high seas net fishing of  
6 anadromous fish.

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

8 WHEREAS the Japanese have taken on the average 22 per cent or roughly  
9 one-fifth of the annual harvest of Bristol Bay sockeye since 1956 with the  
10 interception ranging as high as 52 per cent in 1957 and recently 31 per cent  
11 in 1972; and

12 WHEREAS the Japanese high seas harvest of Bristol Bay sockeye is in  
13 opposition to the river of origin principle adhered to by the United States,  
14 Canada and other countries, this principle being that the country in which  
15 salmon are spawned or reared should be allowed to harvest surplus salmon  
16 consistent with conservation principles; and

17 WHEREAS the harvest of Bristol Bay sockeye on the high seas, in particu-  
18 lar the harvest of immature sockeye results in a loss of harvestable pounds of  
19 salmon as a result of growth which would normally take place if the salmon  
20 were allowed to reach optimum size prior to harvest, and therefore maximum  
21 sustained yield is not obtained; and

22 WHEREAS harvesting of mixed stocks is not consistent with accepted  
23 fisheries management methods which specify that insofar as possible harvest  
24 should take place on distinct stocks and the degree of fishing on mixed  
25 stocks is much greater on the high seas than in the inshore fishery; and

26 WHEREAS the Japanese benefit from the Bristol Bay resource but contribute  
27 no funds directly for the management and research necessary for maintenance  
28 of these stocks; and

29 WHEREAS residents of the Bristol Bay area dependent on this fishery,

1 who contribute directly to management of the resource, have suffered  
2 unusually severe economic conditions during the past two years as a result  
3 of smaller than expected salmon runs coupled with the continued harvest of  
4 Bristol Bay sockeye by the Japanese high seas fishery; and

5 WHEREAS large pieces of monofilament gill net that are lost at sea  
6 continue to fish until they sink, thereby resulting in wanton destruction  
7 of marine life;

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the United States govern-  
9 ment is urgently requested to undertake all immediate and necessary steps and  
10 negotiations in an all-out effort to effectuate the banning of net fishing  
11 on the high seas for anadromous fish.

12 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
13 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable William P. Rogers,  
14 Secretary, Department of State; the Honorable Fredrick B. Dent, Secretary,  
15 Department of Commerce; the members of the International North Pacific  
16 Fisheries Commission; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike  
17 Gravel, U. S. Senators, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.