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Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ANDERSON

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the Board of Fisheries to
6 establish a Bristol Bay Salmon Conserva-
7 tion Reserve.

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

9 WHEREAS domestic salmon fishing on Bristol Bay stocks occurs only in
10 internal state and territorial waters under the jurisdiction of the State of
11 Alaska; and

12 WHEREAS, during the ocean phase of their existence, immature and matur-
13 ing Bristol Bay stocks are taken indiscriminately by Japan west of the pro-
14 visional abstention lines, which lines do not accurately reflect the dividing
15 lines between Asian and North American stocks; and

16 WHEREAS no agreement can be reached among the Commission members admin-
17 istering the International Convention for the High Sea Fisheries of the North
18 Pacific as to the meaning of language in a Protocol to the Convention provid-
19 ing for the relocation of abstention lines; and

20 WHEREAS the parties signatory to the Convention have not responded to
21 requests by the Commission for an agreed-upon interpretation of that lan-
22 guage; and

23 WHEREAS in the Law of the Sea negotiations the United States has clearly
24 indicated support for Japan's continued harvest of Bristol Bay stocks in
25 return for continued abstention from all other North American stocks of
26 Pacific salmon, thus stultifying future efforts to eliminate that harvest
27 either under the present convention or by implementation of extended fish-
28 eries jurisdiction; and

29 WHEREAS the catches of Bristol Bay fishermen are severely reduced by

1 restrictive regulations imposed to compensate for Japan's high-seas catch and
2 to meet the conservation requirements of that fishery; and

3 WHEREAS these restrictive regulations bear far more heavily upon those
4 persons who fish only in Bristol Bay than upon those persons who also fish in
5 other areas on stocks not subject to foreign high-seas fisheries;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
7 the Board of Fisheries, at its next meeting, to

8 (1) provide for the annual determination of the average number of
9 Bristol Bay salmon harvested by foreign nationals, expressed as an average
10 over each preceding 20-year period;

11 (2) create the Bristol Bay Salmon Conservation Reserve subject to
12 the approval of the legislature;

13 (3) ascertain those persons who fish only within the reserve and
14 designate them as a disadvantaged economic class;

15 (4) allocate a quota of salmon, equal to the average number estab-
16 lished in (1), to be taken by those persons who fish salmon commercially only
17 within the reserve before any general fishing season is opened; and

18 (5) provide additional limitations upon entry into the reserve
19 necessary to qualify those persons who fish only within the reserve as being
20 eligible to participate in the quota fishery specified in (4).

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