

Introduced: 1/20/77
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY OSTERBACK

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the Board of Fisheries to
6 classify the Alaska Peninsula shrimp
7 management area as a restricted district.

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

9 WHEREAS the Alaska Peninsula fisheries management area is presently a
10 part of shrimp registration area "J" which in its entirety includes all
11 shrimp fisheries west of Prince William Sound and south of Cook Inlet to the
12 western limit of the Aleutian Chain; and

13 WHEREAS shrimp registration area "J" is an unrestricted registration
14 area and consequently allows any properly registered shrimp fishing vessel
15 that is not registered to fish in any other registration area to harvest
16 shrimp from any waters within the expanse of area "J"; and

17 WHEREAS the Kodiak management area is contained within registration area
18 "J" and the Kodiak-based shrimp fleet consists of approximately 60 vessels;
19 and

20 WHEREAS in 1976 nearly 50 of the highest catching capacity Kodiak-based
21 shrimp fishing vessels fished extensively in the Alaska Peninsula area before
22 the opening of the Kodiak area shrimp season and delivered most of their
23 catch to processing facilities in the Kodiak region; and

24 WHEREAS the travel time from the Alaska Peninsula area to Kodiak by
25 fishing vessel is sufficiently long that much of the shrimp being transported
26 during this time was wasted because the product was spoiled upon arrival in
27 Kodiak, especially when the boats were delayed enroute by inclement weather;
28 and

29 WHEREAS the overwhelming catching power of the Kodiak fishing fleet

1 harvested the shrimp quota so rapidly that the local fishing fleet did not
2 have an opportunity to harvest a fair share of the resource and in fact the
3 season had to be closed by emergency order so that a small portion of the
4 quota could be reserved until after the opening of the Kodiak area shrimp
5 season; and

6 WHEREAS the economic livelihood of the people and communities of the
7 Alaska Peninsula area is highly dependent upon the ability of local fishermen
8 to have access to the local fisheries; and

9 WHEREAS the Board of Fisheries, during its December 1976 session, re-
10 served for 1977 only 9,200,000 pounds of the 57,500,000-pound Alaska Peninsula
11 area quota for harvest after the opening of the Kodiak area season; and

12 WHEREAS this token amount equals less than 20 per cent of the Alaska
13 Peninsula area quota and does not represent an amount which approaches either
14 the catch capacity of the local fleet or the processing capacity of the local
15 industry;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Board of
17 Fisheries to reconsider its preliminary actions pertaining to the Alaska
18 Peninsula shrimp fishery during the Juneau meeting of the Board of Fisheries
19 in March 1977, and strongly recommends that the Board of Fisheries designate
20 the Alaska Peninsula section of the registration area "J" as a restricted
21 registration area so that shrimp fishing vessels may either fish the Kodiak
22 districts or the Alaska Peninsula district, but not both.

23 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mr. Gordon Jensen, Chairman
24 of the Board of Fisheries, and to each member of the Board of Fisheries.