

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ELIASON

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Urging renegotiation of the Convention
6 authorizing the International Pacific
7 Halibut Commission so that foreign fishing
8 of North Pacific halibut stocks is pro-
9 hibited at the earliest possible time.

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

11 WHEREAS the United States halibut fishery, of prime economic importance
12 to the state's fishermen, has had an erratic past, and is presently in a
13 depressed state; and

14 WHEREAS under the current operative Convention between the U. S. and
15 Canada the International Pacific Halibut Commission has the regulatory
16 authority over North Pacific halibut stocks, allowing Canada to participate
17 in the Alaska fishery on a quota basis; and

18 WHEREAS the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-
19 265) expressly provides that the United States has exclusive fishery manage-
20 ment authority within the 200-mile fishery conservation management zone
21 unless surplus stocks exist; and

22 WHEREAS presently no surplus halibut stocks exist, as the rapid prolif-
23 eration of gear in recent years has resulted in a United States fleet with
24 sufficient capability to harvest the available fish; and

25 WHEREAS P.L. 94-265 further provides that the United States shall
26 promptly initiate the renegotiation of any fishery treaty which is incon-
27 sistent with P.L. 94-265, or, if that is not possible within a reasonable
28 period of time from April 13, 1976, withdraw from any such treaty according
29 to the terms of the treaty; and

1 WHEREAS a sufficient period of time has elapsed since the enactment of
2 P.L. 94-265 to allow for renegotiation of the Convention; and

3 WHEREAS one of the terms of the Convention is that two years must elapse
4 from the time notification to terminate is given; and

5 WHEREAS this means that, unless renegotiation is effective, at a minimum
6 two more halibut seasons will pass before foreign fishing is stopped; and

7 WHEREAS renegotiation of the Convention authorizing the International
8 Pacific Halibut Commission could accomplish adequate protection of Alaska
9 halibut stocks without eliminating the essential research aspects of the
10 Convention;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
12 the Secretary of State to call for a renegotiation of the Convention that
13 authorizes the International Pacific Halibut Commission at the earliest pos-
14 sible date so that the regulatory authority for halibut stocks within the
15 200-mile fishery conservation management zone off Alaska can be placed en-
16 tirely under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, or, if that is not
17 possible through renegotiation, that the United States give notice of its
18 desire to terminate the Convention so that the required two-year notification
19 period will begin to run at the earliest possible time.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
21 President of the United States; the Secretary of State; the Secretary of
22 Commerce; the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable
23 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable
24 Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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