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Referred: Resources

BY SPECKING, ELIASON, FREEMAN,  
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AND URION

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the International Convention  
6 for the High Seas Fisheries of the North  
7 Pacific Ocean.

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

9 WHEREAS the interception of Alaska salmon by the Japanese on the high  
10 seas has long been of concern to the United States and especially to Alaskans;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS this salmon interception resulted in the development in 1952 of  
13 the tripartite International North Pacific Fisheries Convention (INPFC), the  
14 primary purpose of which was to ensure the maximum sustained productivity of  
15 the fishery resources of the North Pacific Ocean, with special emphasis on  
16 protection of salmon of North American origin; and

17 WHEREAS INPFC, while helpful in some respects, has failed to eliminate  
18 the interception of salmon of Alaskan origin inasmuch as, on the average,  
19 four million salmon of Western Alaskan origin have been and are still being  
20 harvested west of the abstention line of 175 degrees West longitude; and

21 WHEREAS INPFC negotiations have protected salmon only partially and the  
22 Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-265) states that the  
23 United States has exclusive management authority for all anadromous species  
24 originating in the United States throughout their migratory range; and

25 WHEREAS P.L. 94-265 clearly provides for the prompt renegotiation of any  
26 fishery treaty in effect within the fishery conservation zone to bring that  
27 treaty into conformance with the provisions of P.L. 94-265; and

28 WHEREAS INPFC does not provide the fishery management mandated by our  
29 recently enacted extended jurisdiction law; and

1           WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature considers it to be of the utmost  
2 importance that INPFC be promptly renegotiated in the interest of the con-  
3 servation of Alaska salmon which presently are vulnerable to the Japanese  
4 high seas salmon net fishery both inside and outside the 200-mile fishery  
5 conservation zone;

6           BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the U. S.  
7 Department of State to promptly initiate the renegotiation of the terms of  
8 the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific  
9 Ocean (INPFC); and be it

10           FURTHER RESOLVED that the U. S. Department of State involve to the  
11 maximum extent possible the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the U.  
12 S. Section of INPFC, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries in the development of  
13 the United States position and goals regarding the future of INPFC.

14           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Cyrus Vance,  
15 Secretary of the U. S. Department of State, the Honorable Juanita Kreps,  
16 Secretary of the U. S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Ted Stevens and  
17 the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.  
18 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable  
19 Jay S. Hammond, Governor of Alaska; and to Mr. Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman of  
20 the International North Pacific Fisheries Convention and Chairman of the  
21 North Pacific Fishery Management Council.