

Introduced: 2/15/77
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY GARDINER

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to seafood processing effluent
6 standards."

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

8 WHEREAS the seafood processors of Alaska are increasingly optimistic
9 about the supply of salmon resulting from the State Hatchery Plan and the
10 probable expansion of the entire fishing industry due to the extended juris-
11 diction over fisheries located within 200 miles of the U. S. coastline; and

12 WHEREAS these processors are required to comply with seafood processing
13 effluent guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under
14 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-500) (FWPCA). The
15 FWPCA regulations provide for implementation of high cost waste treatment of
16 seafood processing effluent; and

17 WHEREAS the FWPCA regulations classify Alaskan seafood processors as
18 "remote" and "non-remote". Non-remote seafood processors are those located
19 in Anchorage, Cordova, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, and Petersburg; of these
20 only Anchorage has a sewage treatment plant with potential capacity for
21 treatment of waste effluent generated by seafood processors; and

22 WHEREAS the mandatory treatment of seafood processing effluent involves
23 the screening of the effluent after grinding which necessitates costly capi-
24 tal improvements to each seafood processing facility; and

25 WHEREAS seafood processing effluent is a natural, nontoxic, organic
26 biodegradable material. Regardless of screening, when properly dispersed
27 in tidal waters this effluent is not harmful but beneficial to marine life,
28 and is a natural part of the normal marine food chain; and

29 WHEREAS there are many uses to which seafood processing waste can be

1 applied, including the manufacture of protein-rich fish meal for human con-
2 sumption, a potential source of fish feed in hatchery facilities, and indus-
3 trial production of fertilizer for agricultural purposes; and

4 WHEREAS the EPA has projected that the following segments of the Alaskan
5 seafood processors will not comply with the FWPCA regulations effective in
6 July 1977:

7 (1) 100 per cent of the facilities engaged in processing bottom
8 fish and shrimp;

9 (2) 57 per cent of the non-remote facilities engaged in the
10 processing of fresh-frozen salmon;

11 (3) 33 per cent of the remote facilities engaged in the processing
12 of fresh-frozen salmon;

13 (4) 33 per cent of the non-remote facilities engaged in the pro-
14 cessing of canned salmon; and

15 WHEREAS the seafood processing industry has been depressed in recent
16 years as a result of diminishing stocks of seafood available for harvesting
17 and constant fishing pressure from foreign fleets. This industry cannot
18 easily withstand the expense necessary to implement the FWPCA regulations
19 without diminishing its capability of competing with foreign sources of
20 supply; and

21 WHEREAS many seafood processors carry out their operations in areas of
22 the state that are considered remote by anyone's standards. The residents of
23 the entire state, and especially those living near or employed by remote
24 seafood processing plants benefit from a profitable industry;

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Subcommittee on
26 Water Quality of the Public Works Committee of the United States House of
27 Representatives is respectfully requested to consider an amendment of section
28 502 of P.L. 92-500, The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, to read:

29 "(6) The term 'pollutant' means dredged spoil, solid waste,

1 incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical
2 wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or
3 discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal,
4 and agricultural waste discharged into water. This term does not mean
5 (A) 'sewage from vessels' within the meaning of section 312 of this Act;
6 or (B) water, gas, or other material which is injected into a well to
7 facilitate production of oil or gas, or water derived in association
8 with oil or gas production and disposed of in a well, if the well used
9 either to facilitate production or for disposal purposes is approved by
10 authority of the State in which the well is located, and if such State
11 determines that such injection or disposal will not result in the de-
12 gradation of ground or surface water resources; or (C) wastewaters
13 resulting from commercial processing of seafoods where such wastewaters
14 are discharged into bodies of water affected by tidal action, the terri-
15 torial sea, the contiguous zone or the ocean, unless the appropriate
16 permit issuing authority under section 402 of this Act has found that
17 the discharge of such wastewaters from a particular point source will
18 interfere with the protection and propagation of a balanced, indigenous
19 population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife in and on the body of water
20 into which the discharge is to be made."; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is respectfully re-
22 quested to consider legislation that would encourage research by the public
23 and private sectors concerning uses for seafood processing effluent that
24 would benefit industry, society, and the environment by increasing the world's
25 food supply whether it be through increased crop yields, protein supplementa-
26 tion, or aquaculture.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Chairman of the Sub-
28 committee on Water Quality of the House Committee on Public Works; and to the
29 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the

1 Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
2 in Congress.

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