

Introduced: 3/26/80
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 85

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Endorsing a conservative approach by
6 the North Pacific Fishery Management
7 Council in the management of the
8 offshore herring fishery north of 56
9 degrees north latitude.

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

11 WHEREAS the overall quality of research data relating to the offshore
12 herring fishery north of 56 degrees north latitude is only fair to poor; and

13 WHEREAS data relating to offshore distribution and migration patterns of
14 herring is not available; and

15 WHEREAS detailed data relating to the catch of herring per unit of
16 effort in the offshore herring fishery is also not available; and

17 WHEREAS the general absence or inadequacy of data relating to the
18 offshore herring fishery makes it impossible to establish the relationship
19 between the individual spawning stocks of herring which have been identified
20 along the Alaska coast and the domestic offshore herring fishery; and

21 WHEREAS incidental catches of herring during trawling operations for
22 pollock in the Bering Sea may have a significant effect on juvenile herring
23 populations; and

24 WHEREAS the herring stocks off the Alaska coast have only recently begun
25 to recover from disastrous over-harvesting in the past by foreign fishermen;
26 and

27 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has given its highest priority to the sub-
28 sistence use of fish and game resources among all beneficial uses; and

29 WHEREAS the protection of subsistence uses of herring in Alaska,

1 considering the lack of data relating to the offshore herring fishery,
2 requires a cautious management plan for offshore herring; and

3 WHEREAS the first goal and objective of the North Pacific Fishery
4 Management Council for the management of herring stocks in the fisheries
5 conservation zone is to implement a conservative management regime until
6 adequate biological data and analyses are available;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly endorses a
8 conservative approach by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in the
9 management of the offshore herring fishery north of 56 degrees north
10 latitude; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
12 urged to prohibit large-scale fishing for herring north of 56 degrees north
13 latitude until further research has been completed relating to herring stock
14 assessments and the distribution of herring in the Bering Sea.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the North Pacific Fishery
16 Management Council.

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