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Referred: Resources

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 78

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to commercial fishing by
6 foreign fleets in the 200-mile fishery
7 conservation zone along Alaska's
8 coast.

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

10 WHEREAS the fishing industry constitutes a major portion of the economic
11 activity of Alaska; and

12 WHEREAS the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 reserves to
13 United States fishermen all the harvestable fisheries that can be taken by
14 domestic fishermen; and

15 WHEREAS existing domestic fisheries can harvest all potential salmon and
16 could have the capacity to harvest all other stocks of Alaska origin; and

17 WHEREAS the commercial and noncommercial fishermen of Alaska are
18 dependent on these resources as one of the mainstays of their economy and
19 livelihood; and

20 WHEREAS the fishing industry in Alaska provides the highest employment
21 of any industry in the state; and

22 WHEREAS the harvest and incidental interception of North American Pacific
23 salmon by foreign motherships, land-based gillnet fleets, and Bering Sea
24 trawl fleets exceeds the harvest and incidental interception allowed Alaska
25 troll fishermen by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

26 WHEREAS interceptions of this magnitude on mixed stocks of immature
27 salmon on the high seas may adversely impact Alaska's ability to assure the
28 conservation and sustained yield of these stocks; and

29 WHEREAS the impact of foreign Gulf of Alaska trawl and foreign land-based

1 gillnet catches on Gulf of Alaska chinook salmon has been significant; and

2 WHEREAS the high seas gillnet operations for squid by foreign fleets
3 appear to be intercepting North American salmon; and

4 WHEREAS the harvesting of bottomfish by foreign fleets is incapacitating
5 the fledgling Alaska bottomfish industry; and

6 WHEREAS foreign overfishing in certain areas is causing an imbalance in
7 the ecosystem; and

8 WHEREAS federal lenience toward foreign harvesting of fishery stock
9 inside the 200-mile fishery conservation zone has disrupted Alaska fisheries;
10 and

11 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is impacting Alaska
12 Board of Fisheries policy at the expense of the Alaska fishing industry in an
13 obvious display of favoritism towards foreign fishing interests; and

14 WHEREAS every Alaska fisherman should have the legal right to protect
15 the resources on which he and the Alaska economy are dependent;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
17 the United States Congress to change the voting members on the seating
18 arrangement of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council so as to exclude
19 the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service and to include
20 an Alaskan-at-large representative; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
22 the United States Congress to amend the Fishery Conservation and Management
23 Act of 1976 to prevent fishing by all foreign fleets in the 200-mile fishery
24 conservation zone along Alaska's coast; and be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
26 the United States Congress to grant the State of Alaska exclusive juris-
27 diction over domestic fisheries management within the fisheries conservation
28 zone along Alaska's coast established by the Fishery Conservation and
29 Management Act of 1976.

1 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
2 President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, President of
3 the Senate; to the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives; to the Honorable John B. Breaux, chairman, Subcommittee on
5 Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on
6 Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
7 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
8 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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