

Original sponsors: Randolph, Abood,
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Offered: 3/19/82
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 78 (Resources)

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
7 fishery conservation zone along
8 Alaska's coast.

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

10 WHEREAS the fishing industry is Alaska's largest private employer and
11 generates revenues that are surpassed at this time only by the oil and gas
12 industry; and

13 WHEREAS existing domestic fisheries can harvest all herring, halibut,
14 crab, and salmon in Alaska's 200-mile fishery conservation zone established
15 by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 and have the potential
16 to harvest all other stocks of Alaska origin; and

17 WHEREAS the commercial fishermen of Alaska are dependent on fisheries
18 resources for their livelihood; and

19 WHEREAS the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 reserves to
20 United States fishermen all the harvestable fisheries that can be taken by
21 domestic fishermen; 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 adversely impact Alaska's ability to assure the
28 conservation and sustained yield of these stocks; and

29 WHEREAS the federally controlled North Pacific Fishery Management Council

1 is impacting Alaska Board of Fisheries policy at the expense of the Alaska
2 fishing industry in an obvious display of favoritism towards foreign fishing
3 interests; and

4 WHEREAS the federally controlled North Pacific Fishery Management Council
5 is usurping the long-standing and highly successful management of several
6 exclusively domestic fisheries by the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and

7 WHEREAS the imposition of federal fisheries management plans on the
8 Alaska salmon troll, Bering Sea herring, and Bering Sea king crab fisheries
9 leaves the State of Alaska with the primary responsibility for management,
10 research, and enforcement, but vests all final decision-making authority in
11 federal agencies; and

12 WHEREAS the high seas gillnet operations for squid by foreign fleets are
13 intercepting significant numbers of North American salmon; and

14 WHEREAS the dollar value of incidentally caught halibut by foreign
15 trawlers likely exceeds the value of the total permitted marketable catch;
16 and

17 WHEREAS the numerous seizures of foreign fishing vessels and convictions
18 of foreign vessel operators for underlogging catches and retaining prohibited
19 species over the past three years indicate that the foreign fleets are taking
20 substantially more fish than they have been allocated; and

21 WHEREAS every Alaska fisherman has a right to state and federal protec-
22 tion of Alaska's fishery resources from overfishing by foreign vessels;

23 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
24 the United States Congress to change the voting members on the seating
25 arrangement of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council so as to exclude
26 the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service and to include
27 another Alaskan-at-large representative; and be it

28 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
29 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Department

1 of Commerce to reduce the total allowable level of foreign fishing in the
2 Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska by at least 25 percent in order to conserve
3 stocks and stimulate market opportunity for U.S.-caught bottomfish; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
5 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Department
6 of Commerce to reduce the impact of offshore trawl efforts on Alaska's crucial
7 inshore shellfish, longline, and salmon fisheries by time and area closures
8 on the foreign and domestic trawl fleets; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
10 the United States Congress to allocate sufficient funding to put United
11 States observers on every foreign vessel fishing in Alaska's 200-mile fishery
12 conservation zone and on high seas Japanese fleets catching salmon of Alaska
13 origin; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
15 the United States Congress to grant the State of Alaska exclusive jurisdiction
16 over domestic fisheries management within the 200-mile fishery conservation
17 zone along Alaska's coast.

18 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
19 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, Presi-
20 dent of the Senate; to the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives; to the Honorable John B. Breaux, chairman, Sub-
22 committee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House
23 Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
24 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
25 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the
26 members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.