

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HOHMAN AND FERGUSON

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the gillnet herring
6 fishery in Bristol Bay.

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

8 WHEREAS the Alaska Board of Fisheries has recommended that the commis-
9 sioner of fish and game grant an exception to the prohibition on foreign
10 vessels or aliens processing fish in Alaskan waters to the North Pacific
11 Longline-Gillnet Association of Japan for the 1981 herring season in Bristol
12 Bay; and

13 WHEREAS the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association will process the
14 herring in a joint venture with the local cooperative, the Bristol Bay
15 Herring Marketing Co-op, of Dillingham; and

16 WHEREAS participation in herring processing by foreign vessels or
17 aliens is necessary in Bristol Bay because the herring caught by gillnetters
18 in Bristol Bay often cannot be processed promptly by local United States
19 processors because the facilities of those processors are often fully en-
20 gaged in processing purse seine caught herring; and

21 WHEREAS gillnetters are the most numerous participants in the commer-
22 cial herring fishery in Bristol Bay; and

23 WHEREAS the delays in processing gillnet-caught herring have resulted
24 in losses ranging from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for many gillnetters, amounting to
25 a total loss to the entire gillnet fleet of between \$1,500,000 to \$2,500,000;
26 and

27 WHEREAS it is apparent, in light of the volume of fish involved and the
28 existing capability of United States processors, that U.S. processors cannot
29 adequately accommodate gillnetters attempting to deliver herring in an

1 expeditious enough manner to allow most gillnetters a profitable entry into
2 the fishery during peak periods; and

3 WHEREAS previous efforts by the Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Co-op to
4 obtain commitments from U.S. processors in the Bristol Bay area to process
5 herring have been unsuccessful; and

6 WHEREAS the joint venture between the Bristol Bay Herring Marketing
7 Co-op and the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association of Japan is commit-
8 ted to processing gillnet-caught herring during peak periods, thereby assur-
9 ing gillnetters of a processor who will take and process their fish without
10 costly delays; and

11 WHEREAS this joint venture would take and process immature, spawned-
12 out, and male herring, thereby eliminating some of the waste of fish which
13 has occurred in the past;

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
15 requests the Board of Fisheries to continue its support of this joint ven-
16 ture; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor is respectfully requested to direct
18 the commissioner of fish and game to grant the joint venture between the
19 Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Co-op and the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet
20 Association of Japan an exception to the prohibition on foreign vessels and
21 aliens processing and receiving fish in Alaska, beginning in 1981, and to
22 continue this exception until the commissioner determines that U.S. proces-
23 sors can adequately process the harvest.

24 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the members of the North
25 Pacific Management Council.