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Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ELIASON

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to high seas interception
6 of Alaska chinook salmon.

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

8 WHEREAS the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 reserves to
9 United States fishermen all the harvestable fisheries which can be taken by
10 domestic fishermen; and

11 WHEREAS existing domestic fisheries have the capacity to harvest all
12 potential chinook salmon stocks of Alaskan origin; and

13 WHEREAS the commercial and subsistence fishermen of Alaska are dependent
14 on chinook salmon resources as one of the mainstays of their economy and
15 livelihood; and

16 WHEREAS chinook salmon stocks in Alaska are also of primary importance
17 to the expanding recreational fisheries of Alaska; and

18 WHEREAS the estimated foreign interception of Western Alaska chinook
19 salmon by Japanese mothership salmon and Bering Sea trawl fisheries for 1980
20 was 700,000 fish; and

21 WHEREAS unreported high sea gillnet dropout may have added substantially
22 to the documented interception of Alaska chinook salmon; and

23 WHEREAS the impact of foreign Gulf of Alaska trawl and Japanese land-
24 based gillnet catches on Gulf of Alaska chinook stocks is also estimated to
25 have been significant; and

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

29 WHEREAS foreign harvests of chinook salmon on the high seas are un-

1 acceptably high despite regulations of the International North Pacific
2 Fisheries Commission and measures enacted under the Fishery Conservation and
3 Management Act of 1976; and

4 WHEREAS it is imperative that the cumulative effect of these intercep-
5 tions be understood and reduced or eliminated insofar as possible; and

6 WHEREAS, although Japan has agreed to voluntarily reduce its incidental
7 catch of Alaskan salmon, their take has not been reduced to acceptable
8 levels and the legal rights of American fishermen to the resource have not
9 been protected; and

10 WHEREAS jurisdiction for management of these fisheries is shared by the
11 North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the International North Pacific
12 Fisheries Commission, and the State of Alaska;

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
14 requests the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take the measures
15 necessary to reduce the foreign interception of Alaska chinook salmon to
16 acceptable levels; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
18 requests the President to direct the Secretary of State to request the
19 Japanese government and fishing industry to develop and implement modifica-
20 tions to their salmon fishing operations which will result in significant
21 reductions in their interceptions of Alaska chinook salmon; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the federal
23 government through the Office of the President, the North Pacific Fishery
24 Management Council, and the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission
25 to support research to determine the continent of origin of chinook salmon
26 taken by Japanese fishermen in order to improve the understanding of the
27 impact of that fishery on Alaska chinook stocks.

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
29 President of the United States; the Honorable Alexander Haig, Secretary of

1 State; the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; and to the
2 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
3 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
4 tion in Congress.

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