

Original sponsors: Ferguson and
Sackett

Offered: 5/13/82
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 60 (Resources)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to commercial fishing by

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foreign fleets in the 200-mile fishery

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conservation zone along Alaska's

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coast.

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

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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

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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

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

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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

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

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

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WHEREAS interceptions of this magnitude on mixed stocks of immature
29 salmon on the high seas adversely impact Alaska's ability to assure the

1 conservation and sustained yield of these stocks; and

2 WHEREAS the large numbers of immature halibut caught incidentally in
3 trawling operations in Alaska's 200-mile fishery conservation zone would
4 exceed the annual poundage allowed United States fishermen if the fish were
5 to mature to the average size of longline-caught halibut; and

6 WHEREAS the rapidly expanding high seas gillnet operations for squid by
7 Japanese fishermen are intercepting significant numbers of North American
8 salmon; and

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

13 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
14 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Department
15 of Commerce to reduce the total allowable level of foreign fishing in the
16 Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska by at least 25 percent in order to conserve
17 stocks and stimulate market opportunity for U.S.-caught bottomfish; and be it

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

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
24 the United States Congress to allocate sufficient funding to put United
25 States observers on every foreign vessel fishing in Alaska's 200-mile fishery
26 conservation zone and on high seas Japanese fleets catching salmon of Alaska
27 origin.

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
29 President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, President of

1 the Senate; to the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives; to the Honorable John B. Breaux, chairman, Subcommittee on
3 Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on
4 Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
5 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representa-
6 tive, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the members of the
7 North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

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