

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZIEGLER

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 70

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to commercial fishing of

6 North Pacific chinook salmon.

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

8 WHEREAS the Alaska commercial fishing industry provides the highest
9 employment of any industry in the state; and

10 WHEREAS Alaska commercial fishermen, especially trollers, depend for
11 their livelihood on the North Pacific chinook (king) salmon; and

12 WHEREAS, since 1977, the fishery management plan and amendments imple-
13 mented by the Secretary of Commerce under the Fishery Conservation and Manage-
14 ment Act of 1976 have resulted in substantial reductions in the harvest of
15 chinook salmon in the fishery conservation zone off the coast of Southeast
16 Alaska; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1981, Alaska commercial fishermen suffered more than a 10
18 percent reduction from the 1980 allowable harvest of chinook salmon; and

19 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council at its January
20 meeting tentatively voted to direct the National Marine Fisheries Office,
21 Alaska Region, to manage the Yakutat-Southeast Alaska chinook salmon fishery
22 at the lower end of the 1981 optimum yield range; and

23 WHEREAS Canadian commercial fishermen off the coast of British Columbia
24 have not experienced a comparable reduction; and

25 WHEREAS Canadian commercial fishermen continue to harvest chinook salmon
26 in increasingly greater quantities, despite reductions imposed on Alaskan and
27 other American commercial fishermen for the benefit of all who use the fish-
28 ery; and

29 WHEREAS the less stringently regulated Canadian harvest and interception

1 of chinook salmon poses a severe economic threat to commercial fishermen in
2 Alaska and other Pacific coast states; and

3 WHEREAS salmon interception treaty negotiations between the United
4 States and Canada have continued for several years without resolving the
5 international dispute over the harvest of chinook salmon;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
7 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to direct the National Marine
8 Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, to manage the Yakutat-Southeast Alaska
9 chinook salmon fishery at the upper end of the 1981 optimum yield range; and
10 be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully
12 requested to direct the Secretary of Commerce to disapprove amendments to the
13 fishery management plan submitted by the North Pacific Fishery Management
14 Council if the amendments reduce the harvest of chinook salmon in the Yakutat-
15 Southeast Alaska Region below the 1981 level; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully
17 requested to direct American participants in salmon interception treaty
18 negotiations with Canada to effect a speedy resolution of North Pacific
19 salmon fishery issues.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
21 President of the United States; to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary
22 of Commerce; to Mr. Clem Tillion, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management
23 Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
24 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
25 the Alaska delegation in Congress.
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