

Introduced: 1/20/83
Referred: Labor & Commerce
and Resources

BY BETTISWORTH, CATO
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1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to commercial fishing by for-

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ign fleets in the 200-mile fishery

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conservation zone along Alaska's coast.

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

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WHEREAS the fishing industry constitutes a major portion of the economic activity of Alaska; and

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

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WHEREAS existing domestic fisheries can harvest all potential salmon and could have the capacity to harvest all other stocks of Alaska origin; and

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WHEREAS the commercial and noncommercial fishermen of Alaska are dependent on these resources as one of the mainstays of their economy and livelihood; and

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

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

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

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1 WHEREAS the impact of foreign Gulf of Alaska trawl and foreign land-
2 based gillnet catches on Gulf of Alaska chinook salmon has been signifi-
3 cant; and

4 WHEREAS the high seas gillnet operations for squid by foreign fleets
5 appear to be intercepting North American salmon; and

6 WHEREAS the harvesting of bottomfish by foreign fleets is incapacitat-
7 ing the fledgling Alaska bottomfish industry; and

8 WHEREAS foreign overfishing in certain areas is causing an imbalance
9 in the ecosystem; and

10 WHEREAS federal lenience toward foreign harvesting of fishery stock
11 inside the 200-mile fishery conservation zone has disrupted Alaska fisher-
12 ies; and

13 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is impacting
14 Alaska Board of Fisheries policy at the expense of the Alaska fishing
15 industry in an obvious display of favoritism towards foreign fishing inter-
16 ests; and

17 WHEREAS every Alaska fisherman should have the legal right to protect
18 the resources on which he and the Alaska economy are dependent;

19 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
20 the United States Congress to change the voting members on the seating
21 arrangement of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council so as to ex-
22 clude the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service and to
23 include an Alaskan-at-large representative; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
25 quests the United States Congress to amend the Fishery Conservation and
26 Management Act of 1976 to prevent fishing by all foreign fleets in the
27 200-mile fishery conservation zone along Alaska's coast; and be it

28 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
29 quests the United States Congress to grant the State of Alaska exclusive

1 jurisdiction over domestic fisheries management within the fisheries con-
2 servation zone along Alaska's coast established by the Fishery Conservation
3 and Management Act of 1976.

4 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Rea-
5 gan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, Presi-
6 dent of the Senate; to the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the
7 House of Representatives; to the Honorable John B. Breaux, chairman, Sub-
8 committee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House
9 Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and to the Honorable Ted Ste-
10 vens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
11 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
12 gress.