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BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17 (L & C)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to commercial fishing by for-
6 eign fleets in the 200-mile fishery
7 conservation zone along Alaska's coast.

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

9 WHEREAS the fishing industry constitutes a major portion of the eco-
10 nomic activity of Alaska; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 incidental interception of Pacific halibut by foreign
7 fishing vessels is a substantial part of the available optimum sustainable
8 yield; and

9 WHEREAS the domestic halibut fleet is capable of harvesting the total
10 optimum yield of halibut within the 200-mile fishery conservation zone; and

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

13 WHEREAS foreign overfishing in certain areas is causing an imbalance
14 in the ecosystem; and

15 WHEREAS federal lenience toward foreign harvesting of fishery stock
16 inside the 200-mile fishery conservation zone has disrupted Alaska fisher-
17 ies; and

18 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is impacting
19 Alaska Board of Fisheries policy at the expense of the Alaska fishing
20 industry in an obvious display of favoritism towards foreign fishing inter-
21 ests; and

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

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

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully

1 requests the United States Congress to amend the Fishery Conservation and
2 Management Act of 1976 to prevent fishing by all foreign fleets in the
3 200-mile fishery conservation zone along Alaska's coast; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
5 quests the United States Congress to grant the State of Alaska exclusive
6 jurisdiction over domestic fisheries management within the fisheries con-
7 servation zone along Alaska's coast established by the Fishery Conservation
8 and Management Act of 1976.

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

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