

Offered: 3/14/83  
Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Mulcahy

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7 (Resources)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 Relating to the imposition of a halibut  
6 moratorium and the establishment of a  
7 shares system for halibut in Alaska.  
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
9 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has recommended  
10 imposition of a moratorium on Alaska's halibut fisheries and is considering  
11 recommending the establishment of a share-quota system for the allocation  
12 of the fishery resource; and  
13 WHEREAS the proposed moratorium would exclude fishermen who did not  
14 participate from 1978 to 1982; and  
15 WHEREAS many people in Alaska oppose imposition of a moratorium in any  
16 form, while many others in Alaska favor imposition of a moratorium as  
17 proposed or in another form; and  
18 WHEREAS a share system could result in the concentration of ownership  
19 of the fishery resource in the hands of a few fishermen; and  
20 WHEREAS a share system could encourage speculation and the making of  
21 exorbitant profits at the expense of Alaska fishermen; and  
22 WHEREAS concentration of ownership in and speculation by nonresidents  
23 could result in a loss to Alaska fishing communities and to the state of a  
24 fishery resource valued at \$50,000,000 annually; and  
25 WHEREAS a share system could tend to eliminate competition among  
26 halibut fishermen; and  
27 WHEREAS existing management tools, such as harvest levels, size lim-  
28 its, gear restrictions, and area closures, are less drastic alternatives to  
29 a share-quota system and have not been adequately considered by the

1 management council; and

2 WHEREAS numerous Alaska communities, including Akutan, Cordova, Craig,  
3 Kenai, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, King Cove, Kodiak, the Kodiak Island  
4 Borough, Valdez, and Whittier, and organizations, including the Kodiak Area  
5 Native Association, the Kodiak Area Chamber of Commerce, the Alaska Drag-  
6 gers, and the United Fishermen's Marketing Association, have passed resolu-  
7 tions or otherwise expressed views in opposition to the share-quota system;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS the Legislature would oppose the use of state-operated facil-  
10 ities and other forms of cooperation in implementing a share-quota system;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS much testimony has been given regarding the negative impact of  
13 the high incidental catch of halibut;

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Secretary of  
15 Commerce and the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
16 Administration are respectfully requested to give serious consideration to  
17 the comments submitted by Alaskans regarding the imposition of a moratorium  
18 on Alaska halibut fisheries; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Secretary  
20 of Commerce and the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
21 Administration to consider alternative halibut management techniques, such  
22 as shorter openings over a longer period of time, area registration, and  
23 harvest limits as a means of accommodating substantial regional differences  
24 and addressing the problem of short seasons; and be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Commerce and the administrator  
26 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are respectfully  
27 requested to disapprove any share-quota system for halibut in Alaska that  
28 is recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Secretary

1 of Commerce and the administrator of the National Oceanic Atmospheric  
2 Administration to seek methods of reducing the incidental catch of halibut.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Malcolm  
4 Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; Mr. John V. Byrne, Administrator, Nation-  
5 al Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Mr. Clem Tillion, Chairman,  
6 North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens  
7 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
8 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.