

Offered: 2/14/83
Referred: Rules

Original sponsors: Eliason, Ziegler
and Ray

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Requesting rejection and renegotiation
6 of the proposed United States-Canada
7 salmon interception treaty.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 WHEREAS the commercial salmon industry is an integral and important
10 part of the economy of Alaska; and
11 WHEREAS the proposed treaty between the United States and Canada
12 concerning Pacific salmon calls upon Southeast Alaska's salmon fishermen to
13 take further reductions in harvest, while calling upon Canadian fishermen
14 to take only their first reduction; and
15 WHEREAS the Southeast Alaska trollers have already been compelled to
16 make considerable unilateral reductions in their harvests of chinook salmon
17 for the sake of conservation, while Canadian fishermen have been allowed
18 comparatively unrestricted harvest of the same resource; and
19 WHEREAS chinook salmon conservation measures proposed in the treaty
20 are based on catch statistics for years in which Canadian catches were at
21 record high levels and their fishery was expanding, while during the same
22 years the Alaskan fishery was already being restricted; and
23 WHEREAS under the proposed treaty a substantial portion of Stikine
24 River salmon, which traditionally has been harvested by United States
25 gillnetters, would be allocated to a recently established Canadian fishery
26 without compensation to the United States; and
27 WHEREAS the proposed treaty does not preclude the possibility of an
28 expansion of the Canadian gillnet fishery on the Taku River and a reduction
29 in allowable harvest by United States gillnetters; and

1 WHEREAS, although the provisions of the proposed treaty addressing
2 Yukon River salmon require an accounting of United States and Canadian
3 interests in those salmon prior to the effective date of the treaty, the
4 United States and Canada possess virtually no biological information upon
5 which to base such an accounting; and

6 WHEREAS there are no guarantees in the proposed treaty that United
7 States fishermen will automatically and directly benefit from their own
8 successful fisheries enhancement projects; and

9 WHEREAS all commercial salmon gear groups have expressed opposition to
10 certain provisions in the proposed treaty; and

11 WHEREAS the proposed treaty does not address the issue of high seas
12 foreign interception of all species of salmon; and

13 WHEREAS the language in the proposed treaty is not sufficiently speci-
14 fic to insure the conservation and rational management sought by the par-
15 ties to the treaty; and

16 WHEREAS implementation of the proposed treaty would have a disastrous
17 economic impact on many Alaskan fishermen; and

18 WHEREAS it is vitally important that a treaty transferring significant
19 management authority from the state to an international commission include
20 clear safeguards to protect Alaska's fisheries; and

21 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the value of a coast-
22 wide agreement and the need to work towards the development of a fair
23 treaty;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
25 the Governor of the State of Alaska to reject the proposed United States-
26 Canada salmon interception treaty; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate delegation in Congress is
28 respectfully requested to use its best efforts to prevent ratification of

1 the United States-Canada salmon interception treaty by the United States
2 Senate; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislature respectfully requests the Secre-
4 tary of State to seek reopening of United States-Canada salmon treaty
5 negotiations.

6 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George
7 Shultz, Secretary of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Hon-
8 orable Frank Murkowski, U. S. Senators, members of the Alaska Senate dele-
9 gation in Congress; and to the Honorable William Sheffield, Governor of the
10 State of Alaska.