

Offered: 2/25/83
For Today's Calendar

Original sponsors: Eliason, Ziegler
and Ray

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

1 IN THE SENATE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 (Fisheries)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting renegotiation of the proposed
6 United States-Canada salmon interception
7 treaty and rejection in its present
8 form.

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

10 WHEREAS the commercial salmon industry is an integral and important
11 part of the economy of Alaska; and

12 WHEREAS the proposed treaty between the United States and Canada
13 concerning Pacific salmon calls upon Southeast Alaska's salmon fishermen to
14 take further reductions in harvest, while calling upon Canadian fishermen
15 to take only their first reduction; and

16 WHEREAS the Southeast Alaska trollers have already been compelled to
17 make considerable unilateral reductions in their harvests of chinook salmon
18 for the sake of conservation, while Canadian fishermen have been allowed
19 comparatively unrestricted harvest of the same resource; and

20 WHEREAS chinook salmon conservation measures proposed in the treaty
21 are based on catch statistics for years in which Canadian catches were at
22 record high levels and their fishery was expanding, while during the same
23 years the Alaskan fishery was already being restricted; and

24 WHEREAS under the proposed treaty a substantial portion of Stikine
25 River salmon, which traditionally has been harvested by United States
26 gillnetters, would be allocated to a recently established Canadian fishery
27 without compensation to the United States; and

28 WHEREAS the proposed treaty does not preclude the possibility of an
29 expansion of the Canadian gillnet fishery on the Taku River and a reduction

1 in allowable harvest by United States gillnetters; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
26 the Governor of the State of Alaska to urge greater consideration of
27 Alaska's interest in the proposed United States-Canada salmon interception
28 treaty; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate delegation in Congress is

1 respectfully requested to use its best efforts to prevent ratification of
2 the United States-Canada salmon interception treaty in its present form by
3 the United States Senate; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature respectfully requests the Secre-
5 tary of State to seek reopening of United States-Canada salmon treaty
6 negotiations with renewed efforts to secure terms to better protect the
7 Alaska fishing industry.

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