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Referred: Resources

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the allocation of Gulf of
6 Alaska sablefish harvest by the North
7 Pacific Fishery Management Council.

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

9 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on December 8,
10 1984, voted to allocate 10 percent of the optimum yield of sablefish in the
11 Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery to incidental catch by joint venture
12 fishermen; and

13 WHEREAS joint venture operations in the Gulf of Alaska have expanded
14 dramatically in recent years; and

15 WHEREAS continued expansion of joint venture participation with for-
16 eign processors in the Gulf of Alaska will diminish the tonnage of fish
17 landed in Alaska and jeopardize the survival of small business commercial
18 fishermen in Alaska; and

19 WHEREAS use of longline gear in catching sablefish is ecologically
20 sound; and

21 WHEREAS Alaska longline fishermen have the capacity to harvest, and
22 United States processors have the capacity to process, the entire allowable
23 catch of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska; and

24 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act estab-
25 lishes a priority for United States fishermen delivering to United States
26 processors; and

27 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, in allocating
28 fishing privileges among fishermen and among gear types, is directed by
29 management plan guidelines to consider such relevant factors as the

1 economic and social consequences of the allocation scheme and the depen-
2 dence on the fishery by present participants and coastal communities;

3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific
4 Fishery Management Council is respectfully requested to rescind its action
5 allowing joint venture fishermen an incidental catch of sablefish equal to
6 10 percent of the optimum yield of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska ground-
7 fish fishery; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
9 respectfully requested to take action at its February 1985 meeting to grant
10 Alaska longline fishermen exclusive fishing rights in the sablefish fishery
11 in the Gulf of Alaska.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
13 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-
14 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the
15 Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representa-
16 tives; to the Honorable John B. Breaux, chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries
17 and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on Merchant
18 Marine and Fisheries; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
19 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
20 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to the Honorable Malcolm
21 Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; and Mr. James Campbell, chairman, North
22 Pacific Fishery Management Council.