

Offered: 2/4/85
Referred: Rules

Original sponsors: Grussendorf, Duncan,
M.M.Miller, et al

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8 (Resources)
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 should be accommodated by the North
17 Pacific Fishery Management Council in such a manner as to enhance, and not
18 restrict, development of the domestic fishery; and
19 WHEREAS use of longline gear in catching sablefish is ecologically
20 sound; and
21 WHEREAS the use of pot gear also is a recognized method for United
22 States fishermen to harvest sablefish; and
23 WHEREAS longline gear and pot gear are incompatible gear types; and
24 WHEREAS Alaska longline fishermen have the capacity to harvest, and
25 United States processors have the capacity to process, the entire allowable
26 catch of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska; and
27 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act estab-
28 lishes a priority for United States fishermen delivering to United States
29 processors; and

1 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, in allocating
2 fishing privileges among fishermen and among gear types, is directed by
3 management plan guidelines to consider such relevant factors as the econ-
4 omic and social consequences of the allocation scheme and the dependence on
5 the fishery by present participants and coastal communities;

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific
7 Fishery Management Council is respectfully requested to rescind its action
8 recommending joint venture fishermen an incidental catch of sablefish equal
9 to 10 percent of the optimum yield of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska
10 groundfish fishery, and set aside reserves in the Central and Western
11 Regulatory Areas to allow incidental catch of sablefish based on actual
12 needs rather than optimum yield; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
14 respectfully requested to take action at its February 1985 meeting to grant
15 longline fishermen exclusive fishing rights in the sablefish fishery in the
16 Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska, from Dixon Entrance to a
17 west longitude determined by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council;
18 and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
20 respectfully requested to study the impact an exclusive longline fishery in
21 the Eastern Regulatory Area would have on the longline fishery in the
22 Central and Western Regulatory Areas and to consider appropriate management
23 options, such as exclusive areas, to minimize or prevent gear conflicts
24 between longliners and sablefish pot fishermen in the Central and Western
25 Regulatory Areas.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
27 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-
28 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the
29 Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of

1 Representatives; to the Honorable John B. Breaux, chairman, Subcommittee on
2 Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on
3 Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
4 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
5 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to the
6 Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; and Mr. James Campbell,
7 chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.