

Offered: 5/7/85

Original sponsors: Thompson, Goll,
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1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33 (Rules) am S
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to support for the first on-
6 shore commercial production of surimi by
7 the Alaska seafood industry.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 WHEREAS approximately 2,600,000,000 pounds of Alaska pollock is har-
10 vested annually, and much of this harvest is either taken by Japanese
11 fishing vessels or purchased by the Japanese fishing industry from the
12 American fishing industry; and
13 WHEREAS Japanese industry utilizes approximately 70 percent of its
14 supply of Alaska pollock for the production of surimi and surimi products,
15 and a significant portion of this production is then exported to the United
16 States, where surimi usage has risen from less than 1,000 tons in 1979 to
17 30,000 tons in 1984; and
18 WHEREAS the American fishing industry receives approximately \$.05 a
19 pound for pollock, while the finished surimi products exported from Japan
20 to the United States sell for approximately \$1.75 a pound, aggravating the
21 U.S. trade deficit that was \$4,000,000,000 in 1984 for fishery products
22 alone; and
23 WHEREAS the capacity of the U.S. fishing fleet to harvest Alaska
24 pollock has increased tremendously in recent years, with the American
25 fishing industry harvesting almost 500,000 tons of pollock in 1984; and
26 WHEREAS the surimi products presently used in the U.S. can be produced
27 from just 102,000 tons of Alaska pollock; and
28 WHEREAS Alaskan surimi is a wholesome food product, made from fresh-
29 caught North Pacific pollock, and dollar for dollar has as much or more

1 nutritional value than many traditional seafood products; and

2 WHEREAS the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is requiring surimi
3 marketed in the form of crab strips and other seafood analogue products to
4 be inappropriately labeled as "imitation", and this labeling requirement
5 would discourage sales of this nutritious product and the development of a
6 new domestic industry; and

7 WHEREAS surimi has great potential as a functional protein ingredient
8 for many products in addition to seafood analogues, and the U.S. market for
9 surimi in all forms continues to grow; and

10 WHEREAS projections indicate that establishing a complete pollock
11 surimi industry, including harvesting, processing, distribution and sales
12 in the U.S., would produce a \$6,000,000,000-a-year industry; and

13 WHEREAS Alaska Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska, in conjunction with
14 the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, has demonstrated that top-
15 quality surimi can be produced commercially in on-shore American facili-
16 ties; and

17 WHEREAS Alaska Pacific Seafood will produce an initial pack of 860,000
18 pounds of surimi for use by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation to
19 encourage growth of the U.S. market for domestically produced surimi; and

20 WHEREAS funding for this project was provided by the federal govern-
21 ment through a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant to the Alaska Fisheries Develop-
22 ment Foundation, with matching money and in-kind services provided by
23 industry, fishing groups, and individuals;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature expresses its appre-
25 ciation for this project and gratitude for their support, to the United
26 States Congress, the U.S. Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries
27 Service, and the many industry organizations, fishery groups, and indivi-
28 duals that contributed to the success of this project; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully

1 requests the United States Congress, the United States Department of Com-
2 merce National Marine Fisheries Service, and other concerned groups to
3 continue their support for this project because it has the potential to
4 encourage the full domestic use of the resources of the United States
5 Fisheries Conservation Zone and to enhance the economic well-being of all
6 persons in Alaska and in the other states of the nation; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
8 requests the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the U.S. Department of
9 Health and Human Services to work with the seafood processing industry to
10 develop a label other than "imitation" to distinguish, as a consumer ser-
11 vice, surimi products from traditional seafood products.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
13 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,
14 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to
15 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Repre-
16 sentatives; to the Honorable John C. Danforth, Chairman, Senate Committee
17 on Commerce, Science and Transportation; to the Honorable Walter B. Jones,
18 Chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to the Honor-
19 able John B. Breaux, Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife
20 Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on Merchant Marine and
21 Fisheries; to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary, U.S. Department of
22 Commerce; to the Honorable Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary, U.S. Department
23 of Health and Human Services; to the Honorable David Stockman, Director,
24 Office of Management and Budget; to the Honorable Frank E. Young, Commis-
25 sioner, U.S. Food and Administration; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
26 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
27 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to Chris
28 Mitchell, Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Founda-
29 tion; and to William G. Gordon, Assistant Administrator of the National

1 Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce.