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Referred: House Special Committee  
on Fisheries and Resources

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the Americanization of the

6

fishery off the coast of Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS more fish and shellfish are harvested off Alaska's coast than  
9 in the rest of the United States combined, and this resource is tremendous-  
10 ly important to the long range future of Alaska; and

11 WHEREAS there exists an excellent opportunity for American harvesters  
12 and processors to take advantage of the more than 4,000,000,000 pounds of  
13 fish currently being taken by foreign fishing interests within America's  
14 200-mile zone; and

15 WHEREAS Americanization of the fishery will benefit Alaska's coastal  
16 communities by providing jobs for harvesters, processing workers, and  
17 transporters on a continuing basis; and

18 WHEREAS Americanization of the fishery will provide increased fishing  
19 and processing opportunities for the seafood industry, create employment  
20 opportunities for Americans, stimulate economic growth and foster economic  
21 stability in Alaska's coastal communities, and generate tax revenue for  
22 Alaska's municipalities, the State of Alaska, other coastal states, and the  
23 federal treasury; and

24 WHEREAS more than 99.5 percent of Alaska's harvesters currently have  
25 no involvement in the catching and processing of fishery resources by  
26 foreign fishing interests; and

27 WHEREAS large amounts of fish and shellfish important to Alaska's  
28 commercial, recreational and subsistence users are incidentally caught in  
29 the foreign fishing operations off Alaska's coast; and

1       WHEREAS joint ventures where foreign processors purchase fish from  
2 American harvesters were originally intended as an interim step in the  
3 Americanization of the offshore fishery, to be phased-out as quickly as  
4 possible; and

5       WHEREAS a planned phase-out is crucial to enable the American seafood  
6 industry to provide for an orderly transfer of the fishery to domestic  
7 interests; and

8       WHEREAS establishing a time certain for phasing-out the foreign fish-  
9 ing interests will encourage the financial community to support capitali-  
10 zation of American harvesters and processors; and

11       WHEREAS the Governor's authority to permit joint ventures in Alaska's  
12 internal waters, to provide additional processing capacity according to  
13 provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, is not  
14 affected by this resolution;

15       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
16 the United States Congress to phase out all foreign fishing in American  
17 waters by 1988; and be it

18       FURTHER RESOLVED that sales of American harvested fish to foreign  
19 processors be limited to current levels until foreign processors are  
20 replaced by U.S. processors in 1990.

21       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
22 Reagan, President of the United States, to the Honorable George P. Shultz,  
23 Secretary of State, to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Com-  
24 merce, and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,  
25 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
26 the Alaska delegation in Congress.