

Offered: 5/8/85  
Referred: Resources

Original sponsors: Goll, Cato,  
Grussendorf, et al

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON FISHERIES

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37 (Fisheries)

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 the development of the American seafood industry should not  
9 cause detriment to existing domestic fisheries that are harvesting fully  
10 utilized stocks; and

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

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

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

21           FURTHER RESOLVED that sales of American harvested fish to foreign  
22 processors be limited to current levels until foreign processors are re-  
23 placed by U.S. processors at the earliest possible date.

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