

Introduced: 5/2/85
Referred: House Special Committee
on Fisheries and Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY GOILL

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the interception of Alaska
6 salmon on the high seas.

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

8 WHEREAS Alaska's salmon represents one of the state's most important
9 renewable resources; and

10 WHEREAS more than 40,000 people are employed in commercial fish pro-
11 cessing and harvesting jobs in the state during the salmon season, and
12 thousands of other people in the transportation and service industries in
13 the state benefit from this economic activity; and

14 WHEREAS the Alaska commercial salmon industry contributes millions of
15 dollars annually to state and local government treasuries through taxes,
16 assessments and fees, and salmon fishing and processing represent the
17 economic backbone of many coastal communities in the state; and

18 WHEREAS salmon is a mainstay in the diets of state residents who
19 harvest the great fish by rod and reel, net, and fishwheel for personal and
20 family consumption; and

21 WHEREAS recreational fishing for salmon is an experience enjoyed by
22 most state residents each year; and

23 WHEREAS an estimated 1,099,000 salmon originating in the state were
24 harvested on the high seas by Japanese fishing fleets during 1983; and

25 WHEREAS these high seas interceptions deprived state residents of
26 commercial fishing opportunities valued at \$16,100,000 to fishermen, and
27 \$30,500,000 to seafood processors; and

28 WHEREAS this lost opportunity cost the state treasury between \$482,452
29 and \$804,086 in lost fisheries business tax revenue alone; and

1 WHEREAS the interception figures include 106,000 chinook salmon from
2 South Central Alaska stocks, more than the combined catches of recreation-
3 al, commercial and subsistence fishermen in Cook Inlet in 1983; and

4 WHEREAS Japanese fishermen catch billions of pounds of fish and shell-
5 fish in the state's 200-mile fishery conservation zone each year;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
7 the U.S. Department of State to immediately begin negotiations that will
8 lead to complete elimination of high seas interceptions of salmon of Alaska
9 origin; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully
11 requests U.S. Congress to adopt amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conser-
12 vation and Management Act preventing nations that intercept Alaska-bound
13 salmon on the high seas from receiving allocations to harvest groundfish in
14 the United States' 200-mile fishery conservation zone.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
16 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Schultz,
17 Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Dole, U.S. Senate Majority Leader;
18 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Repre-
19 sentatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
20 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
21 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to Mr. William Gordon, assis-
22 tant administrator for fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; and to
23 Mr. James Campbell, chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.