

Offered: 3/19/86
Referred: Resources

Original sponsors: Grussendorf, Martin,
Herrmann, et al

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 67 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Requesting the United States Congress to
6 establish advanced all-weather satellite
7 coverage of North Pacific waters.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 WHEREAS remote sensing of the ocean is playing an increasingly impor-
10 tant role in fishery research, fish harvesting, and marine safety along the
11 Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada; and
12 WHEREAS satellite sensors give a unique view of the ocean surface and
13 provide extensive and detailed images of sea surface temperature, color,
14 mixed layer depth, currents, and wave action; and
15 WHEREAS the oceanic measurements taken by the satellite are used in
16 determining variations in ocean conditions that play key roles in causing
17 fluctuations in stocks of fishes and their vulnerability to harvesting; and
18 WHEREAS this timely information on the changing ocean, rather than on
19 average ocean conditions, is necessary to understand and eventually predict
20 the effects of the marine environment on fish populations; and
21 WHEREAS up-to-date weather information can provide the fishing fleet
22 accurate weather data that will increase the safety and efficiency of fish
23 harvesting; and
24 WHEREAS the use of satellite sensors combined with conventional data
25 collection techniques provides a powerful tool toward ensuring the wise use
26 of living marine resources; and
27 WHEREAS this information can provide valuable clues as to where for-
28 eign fishing fleets may be targeting certain North American fish stocks on
29 the high seas; and

1 WHEREAS these clues can lead the United States Coast Guard and other
2 enforcement agencies to the precise locations where harmful interception of
3 North American fish are taking place; and

4 WHEREAS several manufacturers have developed oceanographic color
5 displays designed to receive signals from a satellite and to display, in
6 color, an absolute surface temperature distribution for a large water area;
7 and

8 WHEREAS in order to provide this information to fishermen, enforcement
9 agencies, and research facilities, receiving stations need to be estab-
10 lished in Alaska to monitor the North Pacific region; and

11 WHEREAS an all-weather satellite is needed to provide this detailed
12 information because it is not dependent on cloud cover conditions; and

13 WHEREAS the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has aban-
14 doned the Gilmore Creek Satellite Receiving Station and this station can be
15 used by the National Weather Service to receive satellite data in Alaska;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds establishment
17 of all-weather satellite and receiving stations would benefit the fisher-
18 men, marine researchers, enforcement agents, and merchant mariners of the
19 United States and Alaska; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
21 quests the United States Congress to establish an all-weather monitoring
22 satellite for the waters of the North Pacific Ocean; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests that
24 Congress transfer NASA's Gilmore Creek Satellite Receiving Station to the
25 National Weather Service and provide funding for its use; and be it

26 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature also requests that funds be
27 allocated for the purchase of oceanographic color displays for the receiv-
28 ing stations and for the distribution of this data to fishermen, research-
29 ers, enforcement agencies, and merchant mariners.

1 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
2 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-
3 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honor-
4 able Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representa-
5 tives; Richard E. Hallgren, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services
6 (National Weather Service), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
7 tration; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
8 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
9 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.