

Introduced: 3/19/86
Referred: Resources

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 68

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting additional action by the

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United States to reduce high seas inter-

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ception of Alaska-bound salmon.

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

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WHEREAS salmon is one of Alaska's most important natural resources;

10 and

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WHEREAS Alaskans are heavily dependent upon the harvest of salmon as a

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source of employment, tax revenue, food, and recreation; and

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WHEREAS high seas interceptions by the Japanese mothership and land-

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based gillnet fleets deprive Alaskans of an estimated \$25,000,000 worth of

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salmon per year; and

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WHEREAS a recently completed agreement calls for only a very gradual

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phase out of the Japanese mothership fishery in international waters of the

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Bering Sea; and

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WHEREAS the agreement allows the mothership fleet to fish for 140

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fleet days within the U.S. 200-mile exclusive economic zone in the Bering

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Sea during which the Alaska Department of Fish and Game believes signifi-

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cant numbers of Alaska salmon will be intercepted; and

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WHEREAS the agreement would move the land-based fleet only one degree

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to the west of the present abstention line, a movement state fisheries

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scientists believe would not significantly reduce interceptions of Alaska

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salmon; and

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WHEREAS only one U.S. observer would be placed on Japanese enforcement

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vessels patrolling the abstention line for the land-based fleet, and no

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U.S. observers will be allowed on the Japanese fishing vessels; and

1 WHEREAS the issue of cleanup and responsibility for miles of abandoned
2 pelagic drift nets from the Japanese fishing vessels was not addressed by
3 the agreement; and

4 WHEREAS the social and economic impacts upon Alaskans of the Japanese
5 high seas interceptions are distressing, particularly in Western Alaska
6 where average annual incomes are well below federal poverty guidelines; and

7 WHEREAS the Japanese continue to enjoy the privilege of fishing within
8 our 200-mile exclusive economic zone and purchasing raw fisheries resources
9 directly from American fishermen;

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature expresses its extreme
11 disappointment in the terms of the agreement as accomplishing too little
12 too slowly; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Congressional delegation urge the
14 State Department to aggressively pursue continued efforts to obtain from
15 Japan further reductions in the interception rates of Alaska salmon by the
16 high seas fleets; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
18 quests the U.S. Coast Guard to station one cutter to patrol the abstention
19 line for the Japanese land-based fleet during the entire fishing season;
20 and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
22 quests the Congress to provide funding for the three-to-five year research
23 and monitoring program, including on-board observers, in support of the
24 renegotiations called for in 1990 under the terms of the agreement.

25 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
26 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Schultz,
27 Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Dole, U.S. Senate Majority Leader;
28 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Rep-
29 resentatives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank

1 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
2 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to Admiral James S. Gracey,
3 Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; to Mr. William Gordon, assistant administra-
4 tor for fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; and to Mr. Jim
5 Campbell, chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.