

Offered: 3/26/86
Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Rules by request

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 68 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Requesting additional action by the
6 United States to reduce high seas inter-
7 ception of Alaska-bound salmon.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 WHEREAS salmon is one of Alaska's most important natural resources;
10 and
11 WHEREAS Alaskans are heavily dependent upon the harvest of salmon as a
12 source of employment, tax revenue, food, and recreation; and
13 WHEREAS high seas interceptions by the Japanese mothership and land-
14 based gillnet fleets deprive Alaskans of an estimated \$25,000,000 worth of
15 salmon per year; and
16 WHEREAS a recently completed agreement calls for only a very gradual
17 phase out of the Japanese mothership fishery in international waters of the
18 Bering Sea; and
19 WHEREAS the agreement allows the mothership fleet to fish for 140
20 fleet days within the U.S. 200-mile exclusive economic zone in the Bering
21 Sea during which the Alaska Department of Fish and Game believes signifi-
22 cant numbers of Alaska salmon will be intercepted; and
23 WHEREAS the agreement would move the land-based fleet only one degree
24 to the west of the present abstention line, a movement state fisheries
25 scientists believe would not significantly reduce interceptions of Alaska
26 salmon; and
27 WHEREAS only one U.S. observer would be placed on Japanese enforcement
28 vessels patrolling the abstention line for the land-based fleet, and no
29 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 some Western
6 Alaska communities where average annual incomes are well below federal
7 poverty guidelines; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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