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Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZHAROFF

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to support for the first on-

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shore commercial production of surimi by

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the Alaska seafood industry.

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

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WHEREAS approximately 2,600,000,000 pounds of Alaska pollock is harvested annually, and much of this harvest is either taken by Japanese fishing vessels or purchased by the Japanese fishing industry from the American fishing industry; and

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WHEREAS Japanese industry utilizes approximately 70 percent of its supply of Alaska pollock for the production of surimi and surimi products, and a significant portion of this production is then exported to the United States, where surimi usage has risen from less than 1,000 tons in 1979 to 30,000 tons in 1984; and

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WHEREAS the American fishing industry receives approximately \$.05 a pound for pollock, while the finished surimi products exported from Japan to the United States sell for approximately \$1.75 a pound, aggravating the U.S. trade deficit that was \$4,000,000,000 in 1984 for fishery products alone; and

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WHEREAS the capacity of the U.S. fishing fleet to harvest Alaska pollock has increased tremendously in recent years, with the American fishing industry harvesting almost 500,000 tons of pollock in 1984; and

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WHEREAS the surimi products presently used in the U.S. can be produced from just 102,000 tons of Alaska pollock; and

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WHEREAS surimi has great potential as a functional protein ingredient for many products in addition to seafood analogues, and the U.S. market for

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1 surimi in all forms continues to grow; and

2 WHEREAS projections indicate that establishing a complete pollock  
3 surimi industry, including harvesting, processing, distribution and sales  
4 in the U.S., would produce a \$6,000,000,000-a-year industry; and

5 WHEREAS Alaska Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska, in conjunction with  
6 the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, has demonstrated that top-  
7 quality surimi can be produced commercially in on-shore American facili-  
8 ties; and

9 WHEREAS Alaska Pacific Seafood will produce an initial pack of 860,000  
10 pounds of surimi for use by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation to  
11 encourage growth of the U.S. market for domestically produced surimi; and

12 WHEREAS funding for this project was provided by the federal govern-  
13 ment through a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant to the Alaska Fisheries Develop-  
14 ment Foundation, with matching money and in-kind services provided by  
15 industry, fishing groups, and individuals;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature expresses its appre-  
17 ciation for this project and gratitude for their support, to the United  
18 States Congress, the U.S. Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries  
19 Service, and the many industry organizations, fishery groups, and indivi-  
20 duals that contributed to the success of this project; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully  
22 requests the United States Congress, the United States Department of Com-  
23 merce National Marine Fisheries Service, and other concerned groups to  
24 continue their support for this project because it has the potential to  
25 encourage the full domestic use of the resources of the United States  
26 Fisheries Conservation Zone and to enhance the economic well-being of all  
27 persons in Alaska and in the other states of the nation.

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
29 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,

1 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to  
2 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Repre-  
3 sentatives; to the Honorable John C. Danforth, Chairman, Senate Committee  
4 on Commerce, Science and Transportation; to the Honorable Walter B. Jones,  
5 Chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to the Honor-  
6 able John B. Breaux, Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife  
7 Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on Merchant Marine and  
8 Fisheries; to the Honorable Malcolmb Baldrige, Secretary, U.S. Department  
9 of Commerce; to the Honorable David Stockman, Director, Office of Manage-  
10 ment and Budget; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
11 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
12 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to Chris Mitchell, Executive  
13 Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation; and to William G.  
14 Gordon, Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service,  
15 NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce.