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Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SACKETT

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the interception of Alaska

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salmon on the high seas.

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

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WHEREAS Alaska's salmon represents one of the state's most important

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renewable resources; and

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WHEREAS more than 40,000 people are employed in commercial fish pro-

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cessing and harvesting jobs in the state during the salmon season, and

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thousands of other people in the transportation and service industries in

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the state benefit from this economic activity; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska commercial salmon industry contributes millions of

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dollars annually to state and local government treasuries through taxes,

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assessments and fees, and salmon fishing and processing represent the

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economic backbone of many coastal communities in the state; and

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WHEREAS salmon is a mainstay in the diets of state residents who

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harvest the great fish by rod and reel, net, and fishwheel for personal and

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family consumption; and

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WHEREAS recreational fishing for salmon is an experience enjoyed by

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most state residents each year; and

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WHEREAS an estimated 1,099,000 salmon originating in the state were

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harvested on the high seas by Japanese fishing fleets during 1983; and

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WHEREAS these high seas interceptions deprived state residents of

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commercial fishing opportunities valued at \$16,100,000 to fishermen, and

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\$30,500,000 to seafood processors; and

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WHEREAS this lost opportunity cost the state treasury between \$482,452

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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.