

Offered: 5/9/85
Referred: Rules

Original sponsors: Sackett, Sturgulewski
and Zharoff

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to the interception of Alaska
6 salmon on the high seas.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS Alaska's salmon represents one of the state's most important
9 renewable resources; and
10 WHEREAS more than 40,000 people are employed in commercial fish pro-
11 cessing and harvesting jobs in the state during the salmon season, and
12 thousands of other people in the transportation and service industries in
13 the state benefit from this economic activity; and
14 WHEREAS the Alaska commercial salmon industry contributes millions of
15 dollars annually to state and local government treasuries through taxes,
16 assessments and fees, and salmon fishing and processing represent the
17 economic backbone of many coastal communities in the state; and
18 WHEREAS salmon is a mainstay in the diets of state residents who
19 harvest the great fish by rod and reel, net, and fishwheel for personal and
20 family consumption; and
21 WHEREAS recreational fishing for salmon is an experience enjoyed by
22 most state residents each year; and
23 WHEREAS more than 1,000,000 salmon originating in the state are esti-
24 mated to have been harvested on the high seas by Japanese fishing fleets
25 during 1983; and
26 WHEREAS these high seas interceptions deprived Alaska of commercial
27 fishing opportunities valued at more than \$19,000,000 to fishermen, and
28 more than \$36,000,000 to seafood processors; and
29 WHEREAS this lost opportunity cost the state treasury roughly \$500,000

1 to \$800,000 in lost fisheries business tax revenue alone; and

2 WHEREAS the interception figures include 106,000 chinook salmon from
3 South Central Alaska stocks, more than the combined catches of recreation-
4 al, commercial and subsistence fishermen in Cook Inlet in 1983; and

5 WHEREAS Japanese fishermen catch billions of pounds of fish and shell-
6 fish in the state's 200-mile fishery conservation zone each year;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
8 the U.S. Department of State to vigorously pursue negotiations that will
9 lead to complete elimination of high seas interceptions of salmon of Alaska
10 origin; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully
12 requests U.S. Congress to adopt amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conser-
13 vation and Management Act preventing nations that intercept Alaska-bound
14 salmon on the high seas from receiving allocations to harvest groundfish in
15 the United States' 200-mile fishery conservation zone.

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
17 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Schultz,
18 Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Dole, U.S. Senate Majority Leader;
19 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Repre-
20 sentatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
21 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
22 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to Mr. William Gordon, assis-
23 tant administrator for fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; and to
24 Mr. James Campbell, chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.