

Introduced: 3/3/86  
Referred: Labor and Commerce

BY THE LABOR AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 45

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to compensation for injuries to

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commercial fishermen.

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

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WHEREAS the United States commercial fishing industry is facing a  
9 crisis in the cost and availability of marine insurance; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska commercial fishing industry is experiencing severe  
11 economic costs as a result of these problems; and

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WHEREAS these costs are having a detrimental impact on the people and  
13 the communities of the state; and

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WHEREAS the most troublesome part of the marine insurance crisis is  
15 the method by which injured fishermen are compensated and the resultant  
16 impact on the protection and indemnity insurance (P&I) policy; and

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WHEREAS the system for compensating injured commercial fishermen is  
18 established under federal law; and

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WHEREAS a 1957 survey and study sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wild-  
20 life Service concluded that the system "...disregards completely the finan-  
21 cial, economic, and operational characteristics of the industry"; and

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WHEREAS the study also stated that "the system is unjust because it is  
23 wasteful and slow and it fosters misunderstanding and bitterness between  
24 employer and employees"; and

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WHEREAS the study recommended that the system be replaced by a more  
26 equitable one; and

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WHEREAS a more detailed study sponsored by the National Oceanic and  
28 Atmospheric Administration in 1976 recommended the consideration of an  
29 alternative liability system; and

1       WHEREAS a 1985 study sponsored by the National Council of Fishing  
2 Vessel Safety and Insurance also recommends sweeping changes in the exist-  
3 ing system of compensating injured fishermen and warns that "This is ...  
4 probably the last time this issue will be presented before Congress.  
5 Either the system will be changed, or the industry will not be strong  
6 enough to return"; and

7       WHEREAS the Congress is presently evaluating the problem and consider-  
8 ing possible solutions to it;

9       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that Congress is re-  
10 spectfully requested to take whatever action is necessary to revise the  
11 present system for compensating injured fishermen so that it will be fair  
12 to commercial fishermen and affordable by the vessel owners.