

Offered: 5/4/86
Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Resources Committee

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 50 (Resources) am H
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to the incidental catch of
6 high-value fish stocks within the United
7 States exclusive economic zone.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 WHEREAS art. VIII, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, re-
10 quires the Alaska State Legislature to provide for the utilization, devel-
11 opment, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the state
12 for the maximum benefit of the people of the state; and
13 WHEREAS fisheries are Alaska's most important renewable natural re-
14 source; and
15 WHEREAS the salmon, halibut, and crab fisheries have traditionally
16 provided a major source of employment and income for Alaska fishermen; and
17 WHEREAS the harvestable surplus of every salmon stock of Alaska ori-
18 gin, and of halibut and crab, are fully used by United States fishermen;
19 and
20 WHEREAS trawlers incidentally harvest a significant but unknown number
21 of salmon of Alaska origin, and of halibut, crab, and other high-value
22 species estimated to be worth millions of dollars while targeting ground-
23 fish in the United States exclusive economic zone; and
24 WHEREAS the incidental harvest of salmon of Alaska origin, and of
25 halibut and crab, by groundfish trawlers in the United States exclusive
26 economic zone makes imperative the need to study the resource; and
27 WHEREAS at times the incidental catch of high-value species by ground-
28 fish trawlers in the United States exclusive economic zone has exceeded the
29 catch of these species allocated for Alaska fishermen; and

1 WHEREAS the incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin and of hali-
2 but, crab, and other high-value species significantly and adversely affect
3 Alaska residents who depend upon them for their livelihood, particularly
4 residents of villages in western Alaska, who harvest the salmon, many of
5 whom have annual incomes that average below federal poverty guidelines; and

6 WHEREAS United States fishermen are becoming increasingly involved in
7 the harvest of groundfish in the United States exclusive economic zone; and

8 WHEREAS the development of a new fishery for United States trawlers
9 involved in the harvest of groundfish should not be at the expense of the
10 traditional fisheries of salmon, crab, halibut, and other high-value spe-
11 cies; and

12 WHEREAS the experience with the foreign fishing fleet has demonstrated
13 the ability to reduce significantly the incidental catch of salmon of
14 Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and other high-value species without adverse-
15 ly affecting the fishery; and

16 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act is de-
17 signed to maximize economic benefits to United States citizens from the use
18 of United States fisheries resources; and

19 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act assigns
20 the Secretary of Commerce a nondiscretionary duty to enforce the provisions
21 of that Act to significantly reduce the incidental catch of salmon of
22 Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and other high-value species by trawlers
23 involved in the harvest of groundfish; and

24 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has the respon-
25 sibility of implementing the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management
26 Act and has the authority to implement measures to significantly reduce the
27 incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and other
28 high-value species by trawlers involved in the harvest of groundfish;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests

1 the Secretary of Commerce and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
2 to enforce the provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Manage-
3 ment Act and to take quick and decisive action to significantly reduce the
4 level of incidental catch of salmon of Alaska origin, halibut, crab, and
5 other high-value species by groundfish trawlers in the United States exclu-
6 sive economic zone; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of Commerce and the
8 North Pacific Fishery Management Council are respectfully requested to
9 develop and enforce specific measures that significantly reduce the inci-
10 dental catch of high-value species by trawlers and other vessels engaged in
11 ground-fishing that have the least adverse affect on the ability of domes-
12 tic trawlers to engage in the ground-fishing industry; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
14 quests the Governor of Alaska to aggressively pursue every possible means,
15 including judicial action, of persuading the Secretary of Commerce and the
16 North Pacific Fishery Management Council to enforce the provisions of the
17 Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to significantly reduce
18 the incidental catch of Alaska salmon, crab, halibut, and other high-value
19 species by the groundfish fleets operating in the United States exclusive
20 economic zone, with the least adverse impact on the ability of United
21 States trawlers to participate in the ground-fishing industry; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the
23 Governor of Alaska to aggressively pursue every possible means of assisting
24 Alaska fishermen who are participating in the ground-fishing industry to
25 significantly reduce the incidental harvest of salmon, crab, halibut, and
26 other high-value species, without adversely affecting their ability to
27 participate in the ground-fishing industry.

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Malcolm
29 Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; Jim Campbell, Chairman, North Pacific

- 1 Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-
- 2 able Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
- 3 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.