

Original sponsors: Sund and Herrmann

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23 (L&C)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to tributyltin.
6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
7 WHEREAS tributyltin is one of the most toxic substances ever deliber-
8 ately introduced into the marine environment; and
9 WHEREAS tributyltin is used widely in marine bottom paints as an
10 antifoulant and on the nets of marine fish pens to prevent the growth of
11 plants, algae, and other substances on the pen mesh; and
12 WHEREAS an ever-increasing body of evidence indicates that tributyl-
13 tin-based antifouling paints, and pens treated with tributyltin, cause sub-
14 stantial harm to the environment, cause deformities in oysters and other
15 shellfish, and are lethal to juvenile chinook salmon; and
16 WHEREAS tributyltin is known to be harmful in amounts exceeding five
17 parts per trillion; and
18 WHEREAS high concentrations of tributyltin have been found in the
19 water of west coast marinas, ranging from 100 to 1,000 parts per trillion;
20 and
21 WHEREAS recent studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service have
22 found that salmon reared in sea pens treated with tributyltin absorb
23 tributyltin in their flesh, resulting in concentrations in the fish exceed-
24 ing five parts per trillion; and
25 WHEREAS pen-reared salmon contaminated with tributyltin and imported
26 into the United States or produced domestically enter the fresh, frozen,
27 and smoked fish markets along with wild salmon; and
28 WHEREAS studies have shown that exposure to tributyltin can be danger-
29 ous to the health of people and, therefore, human consumption of fish

1 contaminated with tributyltin should be avoided;

2 WHEREAS cooking was found to be ineffective in destroying or removing
3 tributyltin from the contaminated fish; and

4 WHEREAS the United States Navy is considering a conversion to the use
5 of tributyltin-additive bottom paints for its fleet; and

6 WHEREAS tributyltin-based bottom paints have been banned or restricted
7 in France and Great Britain at the insistence of the fishing industry; and

8 WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency is the agency responsible
9 for the protection of the coastal environment in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency has the expert staff
11 necessary to prepare and distribute appropriate informative materials on
12 the use of tributyltin and its potential adverse effects on the marine
13 environment; and

14 WHEREAS alternative antifoulant bottom paints exist and are available
15 to military, commercial, and recreational fleets;

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Food and Drug
17 Administration is respectfully requested to impose an immediate ban on the
18 importation and sale in the United States of salmon reared in tributyltin-
19 treated aquaculture pens; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States is respect-
21 fully requested to

22 (1) ban the use of tributyltin-based bottom paints on all mili-
23 tary, commercial, and recreational vessels, unless a method is developed
24 for the safe use of tributyltin-based bottom paint or paints containing
25 derivatives of organotin;

26 (2) require the Environmental Protection Agency to expedite its
27 special review of tributyltin and to expand the review to include all 20
28 tributyltin compounds;

29 (3) ban the importation and sale in the United States of salmon

1 reared in tributyltin-treated aquaculture pens;

2 (4) immediately direct the Environmental Protection Agency to
3 create and distribute to every boat owner in the United States a brochure
4 regarding tributyltin;

5 (5) establish national standards for concentrations of tributyl-
6 tin in salt water and fresh water;

7 (6) impose a levy on tributyltin producers, based on the number
8 of pounds of active tributyltin produced, and use the proceeds of the levy
9 to provide each state with money to monitor, review, and evaluate the
10 effects of tributyltin on the marine environment.

11 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
12 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable John C. Stennis,
13 President pro tempore of the United States Senate; to the Honorable Jim
14 Wright, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to the
15 Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,
16 Science, and Transportation; to the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, chairman,
17 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; to the Honorable
18 Walter B. Jones, chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisher-
19 ies; to each member of the California, Oregon, and Washington Congressional
20 delegations; to Lee M. Thomas, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection
21 Agency; to Dr. Frank E. Young, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration;
22 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
23 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
24 Alaska delegation in Congress.