

1 IN THE HOUSE BY HERRMANN AND ELLIS

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Urging the United States Congress to
6 enact a raw fish tax and a domestic on-
7 board observer program.

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

9 WHEREAS the state has adopted a raw fish tax of three percent on most
10 fish species caught within state water; and

11 WHEREAS significant numbers of fish are being caught in United States
12 water between the three-mile and 200-mile limits; and

13 WHEREAS imposition of a three percent tax on fish caught in the area
14 between the three-mile limit and the 200-mile limit would result in equity
15 for all fishermen fishing in United States water; and

16 WHEREAS accurate logging data reporting the number of fish caught and
17 the by-catch of all species is critical to fisheries management as well as
18 accurate tax assessments; and

19 WHEREAS a domestic on-board observer program requiring domestic
20 observers in United States water to log all fish caught would provide the
21 accurate data needed; and

22 WHEREAS the funds generated by a three percent tax would provide
23 adequate funding to pay for the domestic on-board observer program,
24 increase funding for United States Coast Guard enforcement, and provide a
25 revenue surplus to reduce the federal deficit;

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress is
27 urged to

28 (1) enact a three percent raw fish tax on fish taken from United
29 States water between the three-mile and 200-mile limits; and

1 (2) use a portion of the tax revenue to fund a domestic on-board
2 observer program in United States water and provide a continuous source of
3 funding to enable increased United States Coast Guard enforcement of
4 fishing activities in United States water.

5 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens
6 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
7 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.