

Introduced: 5/17/87
Referred: Labor & Commerce & Resources

5-1224A

1 IN THE SENATE BY ZHAROFF

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Opposing implementation of a limited
6 entry system in the North Pacific sable-
7 fish longline fishery.

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

9 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is soliciting
10 proposals for limited entry in the North Pacific sablefish longline fishery
11 and is scheduled to

12 (1) select the most promising proposals for further development
13 at its May meeting;

14 (2) review and send out the draft plans for public review at the
15 September meeting; and

16 (3) make a final decision on a plan at the December meeting; and

17 WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service has published in the
18 Federal Register a notice that anyone entering the sablefish longline
19 fishery after September 26, 1985, will not be assured of future participa-
20 tion if the council develops, and the Secretary of Commerce implements, a
21 limited entry regime for the fishery; and

22 WHEREAS the Gulf of Alaska sablefish longline fishery was Americanized
23 fairly recently, opening the door to participation by the resident Alaska
24 fleet for only a short period of time; and

25 WHEREAS the support for imposing limited entry in the sablefish long-
26 line fishery is coming primarily from the longline fleet based in the State
27 of Washington, and has little support in Alaska; and

28 WHEREAS, because relatively few Alaska fishermen participated in the
29 sablefish longline fishery, Alaska fishermen would be the group most likely

1 to be excluded from the fishery by the imposition of limited entry; and
2 WHEREAS sablefish limited entry would exclude disproportionate numbers
3 of Alaska fishermen and preclude participation by the growing Alaska long-
4 line fishing fleet; and

5 WHEREAS the local economies of the coastal communities of Alaska
6 depend on the income generated by resident Alaska fishermen; and

7 WHEREAS success and prosperity in the Alaska fishing industry depends
8 on the participants' ability to diversify and to adapt to changing resource
9 and economic conditions; and

10 WHEREAS the ability to participate in multiple fisheries and adapt to
11 changing economic and resource conditions are vital characteristics of the
12 western Alaska fishing fleet; and

13 WHEREAS limited entry artificially restricts a number of participants
14 to a particular fishery regardless of the fluctuating economics and re-
15 source conditions of that fishery; and

16 WHEREAS limited entry on one species restricts the ability of the
17 fleet to shift from species to species as economic and resource conditions
18 allow and increases the pressure on the fisheries that are not subject to
19 limited entry; and

20 WHEREAS consideration of limited entry for a fishery tends to cause
21 more people to enter the fishery than would otherwise consider doing so in
22 order to establish a history of participation and become eligible for a
23 limited entry permit; and

24 WHEREAS limited entry in the sablefish longline fishery would perpetu-
25 ate a tragic misconception that each individual commercial fishery can be
26 managed independently of other commercial fisheries, and ignores the inter-
27 relationship between all commercial fisheries; and

28 WHEREAS limited entry represents a quick-and-easy, but ineffective,
29 solution to more fundamental management problems; and

1 WHEREAS each attempt worldwide to implement a perfect limited entry
2 system has resulted in unforeseen consequences that often leave a fishery
3 in worse economic condition than the one the limited entry system was
4 designed to correct; and

5 WHEREAS the fishery management is characterized by such complexity and
6 so many variables that the best method to control entry into a fishery is
7 free enterprise, allowing individuals a free choice whether to participate
8 in the fishery;

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
10 respectfully requested to take whatever action is necessary to protect the
11 rights of Alaska fishermen and to vigorously oppose any effort to implement
12 limited entry in the North Pacific sablefish longline fishery; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
14 respectfully requested to abandon all efforts to study, plan, encourage, or
15 recommend implementation of limited entry in the North Pacific sablefish
16 longline fishery; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that if the council recommends the adoption of limit-
18 ed entry for the North Pacific sablefish longline fishery, then the Secre-
19 tary of Commerce is respectfully requested to reject this recommendation.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Malcolm
21 Baldrige, United States Secretary of Commerce; Mr. James Campbell, chairman
22 of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted
23 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
24 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
25 gress.