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Original sponsor: Zharoff

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE LABOR AND
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46 (L&C) COMMERCE COMMITTEE
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND 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 developing
10 detailed options, including license limitation and individual transferable
11 quota systems, for limited entry in the North Pacific sablefish longline
12 fishery, with 1989 set as the target date for implementation; and
13 WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service has published in the
14 Federal Register a notice that anyone entering the sablefish longline
15 fishery after September 26, 1985, will not be assured of future participa-
16 tion if the council develops, and the Secretary of Commerce implements, a
17 limited entry regime for the fishery; and
18 WHEREAS the Gulf of Alaska sablefish longline fishery was Americanized
19 in the early 1980's, opening the door to participation by the resident
20 Alaska fleet for only a short period of time; and
21 WHEREAS the support for imposing limited entry in the sablefish long-
22 line fishery is coming primarily from the longline fleet based in the State
23 of Washington, and has little support in Alaska; and
24 WHEREAS, because relatively few Alaska fishermen participated in the
25 sablefish longline fishery, Alaska fishermen would be the group most likely
26 to be excluded from the fishery by the imposition of limited entry; and
27 WHEREAS sablefish limited entry would exclude disproportionate numbers
28 of Alaska fishermen and preclude participation by the growing Alaska long-
29 line fishing fleet; and

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

3 WHEREAS success and prosperity in the Alaska fishing industry depends
4 on the participants' ability to diversify and to adapt to changing resource
5 and economic conditions; and

6 WHEREAS the ability to participate in multiple fisheries and adapt to
7 changing economic and resource conditions are vital characteristics of the
8 western Alaska fishing fleet; and

9 WHEREAS limited entry artificially restricts a number of participants
10 to a particular fishery regardless of the fluctuating economics and re-
11 source conditions of that fishery; and

12 WHEREAS limited entry on one species restricts the ability of the
13 fleet to shift from species to species as economic and resource conditions
14 allow and increases the pressure on the fisheries that are not subject to
15 limited entry; and

16 WHEREAS consideration of limited entry for a fishery tends to cause
17 more people to enter the fishery than would otherwise consider doing so in
18 order to establish a history of participation and become eligible for a
19 limited entry permit; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS each attempt worldwide to implement a perfect limited entry
27 system has resulted in unforeseen consequences that often leave a fishery
28 in worse economic condition than the one the limited entry system was
29 designed to correct; and

1 WHEREAS the fishery management is characterized by such complexity and
2 so many variables that the best method to control entry into a fishery is
3 free enterprise, allowing individuals a free choice whether to participate
4 in the fishery;

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

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

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

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William
17 Verity, United States Secretary of Commerce; Mr. James Campbell, chairman
18 of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted
19 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
20 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
21 gress.