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1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to foreign fishing in the

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international water of the Bering Sea.

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

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WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act has

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contributed to the rapid "Americanization" of the fisheries within the

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200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Alaska's coast; and

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WHEREAS harvesters and processors in the United States are increasing

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their ability to utilize the vast groundfish resources in the EEZ; and

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WHEREAS Alaska's coastal communities are benefiting from the economic

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activity caused by the Americanization of the fisheries resources off

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Alaska's coast; and

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WHEREAS those fishery resources are worth billions of dollars annually

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to the United States; and

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WHEREAS the area of the Bering Sea outside the EEZ of the United

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States and outside the jurisdiction of the Soviet Union is not managed by

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any country or international organization; and

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WHEREAS the fish stocks in the EEZ are not stationary, but circulate

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beyond the 200-mile boundary, where they are subject to unlimited and

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uncontrolled harvesting that is detrimental to the stocks; and

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WHEREAS the extent of the harvest in the international water of the

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Bering Sea is unknown, but is estimated to be in excess of 1,000,000 metric

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tons a year; and

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WHEREAS Japanese, Chinese, Polish, and South Korean commercial fishing

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vessels conduct harvest operations in the international water of the Bering

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Sea; and

1       WHEREAS unregulated foreign fishing in the international water of the  
2 Bering Sea adversely affect United States fishing efforts in the EEZ and  
3 the development of markets for United States fishery products; and

4       WHEREAS this area is used as a staging area for illegal fishing within  
5 the United States' EEZ by foreign vessels; and

6       WHEREAS the lack of observers and the lack of accurate data on the  
7 fishery resources and harvest level in the international water of the  
8 Bering Sea significantly hinder decision-making on stocks in the United  
9 States' EEZ; and

10       WHEREAS prompt action is necessary to protect the fishery resources of  
11 the United States that migrate into international water and to protect the  
12 integrity of the Magnuson Act;

13       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of  
14 the United States is respectfully requested to seek negotiations with the  
15 Soviet Union to implement harvesting controls in this area; and be it

16       FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respect-  
17 fully requested to seek agreements with foreign nations whose vessels fish  
18 in the international water of the Bering Sea that would provide for annual  
19 reporting of fishing activities in that area; and be it

20       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Commerce is respectfully re-  
21 quested to direct that, in accordance with the permit conditions estab-  
22 lished by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the United States  
23 observer program be expanded to include foreign fishing vessels operating  
24 in the international water of the Bering Sea; and be it

25       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard  
26 is respectfully requested to order increased patrols in the international  
27 water of the Bering Sea; and be it

28       FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government take steps neces-  
29 sary to prevent the overharvest of fishery resources of United States

1 origin in the international water of the Bering sea, including the  
2 extension of United States' jurisdiction over the area.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
4 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Shultz,  
5 Secretary of State; to the Honorable C. William Verity, Jr., Secretary of  
6 Commerce; to Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr., Commandant, United States Coast  
7 Guard; to James O. Campbell, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management  
8 Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
9 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
10 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.