

Offered: 2/9/88
Referred: Rules

5-1681B

Original sponsors: Sturgulewski, Zharoff,
Uehling, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to foreign fishing in the
6 international water of the Bering Sea.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act has
9 contributed to the rapid "Americanization" of the fisheries within the
10 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Alaska's coast; and
11 WHEREAS harvesters and processors in the United States are increasing
12 their ability to utilize the vast fisheries resources in the EEZ, includ-
13 ing, but not limited to groundfish, salmon, and herring; and
14 WHEREAS Alaska's coastal communities are benefiting from the economic
15 activity caused by the Americanization of the fisheries resources off
16 Alaska's coast; and
17 WHEREAS those fishery resources are worth billions of dollars annually
18 to the United States; and
19 WHEREAS the area of the Bering Sea outside the EEZ of the United
20 States and outside the jurisdiction of the Soviet Union is not managed by
21 any country or international organization; and
22 WHEREAS the fish stocks in the EEZ are not stationary, but circulate
23 beyond the 200-mile boundary, where they are subject to unlimited and
24 uncontrolled harvesting that is detrimental to the stocks; and
25 WHEREAS the extent of the harvest in the international water of the
26 Bering Sea is unknown, but is estimated to be in excess of 1,000,000 metric
27 tons a year; and
28 WHEREAS Japanese, Chinese, Polish, and South Korean commercial fishing
29 vessels conduct harvest operations in the international water of the Bering

1 Sea; and

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

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

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

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

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

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respect-
18 fully requested to direct the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State,
19 and the Secretary of Commerce to work collectively to monitor fishing
20 activities in the Bering Sea; and be it

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

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

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

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government take steps neces-
5 sary to prevent the overharvest of fishery resources of United States
6 origin in the international water of the Bering sea, including the exten-
7 sion of United States' jurisdiction over the area.

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