

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ULMER, SWACKHAMMER, KOPONEN,
DONLEY, BROWN, DAVIDSON, GOLL,
NAVARRE, GRUENBERG, GRUSSENDORF,
ELLIS, BOUCHER, HUDSON AND C.DAVIS

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Urging monitoring, regulation, and

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elimination of high seas interception of

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salmon and steelhead by the squid drift-

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net fleets of Japan, Taiwan, and Korea.

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

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WHEREAS the commercial and sport fishing industries of the Pacific

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Coast of the United States contribute billions of dollars to the national

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economy each year; and

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WHEREAS salmon and steelhead are the mainstays of the Pacific Coast

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commercial and sport fishing industries; and

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WHEREAS salmon and steelhead spend one to four years of their lives in

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the international waters of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

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WHEREAS there is growing evidence that American salmon and steelhead

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are being harvested illegally in substantial numbers by the squid driftnet

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fleets of Japan, Taiwan, and Korea; and

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WHEREAS the gillnets used by the squid driftnet fleets catch and

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retain salmon and steelhead and are often 25 miles long; and

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WHEREAS the squid driftnet fleets have expanded dramatically in the

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last decade to more than 700 vessels that use 20,000 miles of gillnet each

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day; and

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WHEREAS there is a virtual absence of fishery law enforcement or

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monitoring of the squid driftnet fleets on the high seas; and

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WHEREAS poor salmon runs in 1988, the increased incidence of net

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marked salmon and steelhead, and recent reports of large quantities of

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illegally harvested salmon being sold in Europe and Asia have heightened

1 public concern over high seas interceptions of salmon and steelhead; and

2 WHEREAS the illegal harvest and sale of American salmon by foreign
3 fishing fleets are undercutting international sales of salmon harvested by
4 American fishermen; and

5 WHEREAS the increasing interception of American salmon and steelhead
6 by foreign squid driftnet fleets is having significant adverse economic and
7 social effects on the residents of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and
8 California; and

9 WHEREAS most salmon harvested on the high seas originate in the Soviet
10 Union, Canada, or the United States; and

11 WHEREAS the most effective long-term solution for protection of Ameri-
12 can salmon and steelhead stocks on the high seas is the elimination of high
13 seas interception of these stocks;

14 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
15 the Secretary of Commerce to

16 (1) expeditiously complete a through analysis of all available
17 information on salmon and steelhead interception by foreign squid driftnet
18 fleets as required by P.L. 100-202, sec. 4005; and

19 (2) vigorously promote, through the Secretary of State, effec-
20 tive agreements with Japan, Taiwan, and Korea for the monitoring of the
21 squid driftnet fleets and for the enforcement of laws and agreements to
22 prevent the illegal retention and sale of salmon and steelhead as author-
23 ized under P.L. 100-202, secs. 4004 and 4006; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully
25 requests the Secretary of State to pursue negotiations with the Soviet
26 Union and Canada for cooperative enforcement agreements and monitoring
27 programs to eliminate high seas interception of salmon and steelhead; and
28 be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully

1 requests the Congress to

2 (1) increase appropriations for high seas fisheries patrols by
3 the Coast Guard and for enforcement of laws and agreements prohibiting the
4 harvest and retention of American stocks of salmon and steelhead;

5 (2) amend the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act
6 (16 U.S.C. 1801 - 1882) to assert jurisdiction over American salmon and
7 steelhead stocks on the high seas; and

8 (3) expand the sanctions available to the United States under
9 the Pelly Amendment (22 U.S.C. 1978(a)) to retaliate for illegal foreign
10 fishing activities to include embargoes against nonfish products of a
11 nation that does not adequately regulate its fishing fleets on the high
12 seas.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle,
14 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
15 Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable
16 Robert Mosbacher, U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Jim Wright,
17 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted
18 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
19 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
20 gress.