

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ZAWACKI AND HANLEY

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to compensation for lost reve-

6

nue and income caused by high seas

7

interceptions of Alaskan salmon.

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

9

WHEREAS salmon are the mainstay of the Alaska fishing industry and are  
10 the primary source of income for Alaska fishermen; and

11

WHEREAS the Alaska salmon fishery is a direct and indirect source of  
12 revenue for the State of Alaska; and

13

WHEREAS salmon constitute the primary economic base of many coastal  
14 and river communities of the state and are the principal component of the  
15 subsistence economy of most villages in the state; and

16

WHEREAS the Yukon-Kuskokwim region of western Alaska is one of the  
17 most economically disadvantaged areas of the United States where commer-  
18 cial fishing is the single most important source of cash income, yet  
19 produces an average of less than \$7,000 per fisherman per year; and

20

WHEREAS poor salmon runs in Southeast Alaska and the Kvichak River of  
21 Bristol Bay in 1988 and the increased incidence of net marked salmon in  
22 Southeast Alaska and Bristol Bay have focused attention on the high seas  
23 interception of Alaska salmon; and

24

WHEREAS Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan conduct major high seas fisher-  
25 ies for squid, groundfish, and other types of fish and these fisheries  
26 intercept salmon from Alaska and other Pacific Coast states; and

27

WHEREAS it is estimated that the Japanese land-based and mothership  
28 fleets alone could be intercepting as many as 2,000,000 salmon each year;

29

and

1       WHEREAS there have been recurring reports of large quantities of  
2 illegally harvested salmon being sold in Europe and Asia; and

3       WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service has concluded that an  
4 enormous volume of salmon caught by foreign fishermen is being sold on  
5 European markets; and

6       WHEREAS the illegal harvest and sale of Alaska salmon by foreign  
7 fishing fleets are undercutting international sales of salmon by Alaska  
8 fishermen and are having significant adverse economic effects on residents  
9 of Alaska; and

10       WHEREAS the fishermen of Alaska cannot afford the direct loss of  
11 salmon destined for Alaska fisheries and the indirect loss of income due to  
12 unfair competition from the illegal sale of salmon that Alaska fishermen  
13 otherwise would have caught; and

14       WHEREAS the State of Alaska cannot afford the loss of revenue it  
15 derives from the salmon fishery and the increased cost of social services  
16 to economically depressed salmon fishing communities; and

17       WHEREAS illegal high seas interceptions of Alaska salmon deprive the  
18 State of Alaska of an economic return on its substantial investment in the  
19 state's fishing and processing industries; and

20       WHEREAS it is difficult for individual fishermen or the State of  
21 Alaska, without the cooperation of the federal government, to obtain com-  
22 pensation for the loss of the Alaska salmon resource caused by foreign high  
23 seas fishing fleets; and

24       WHEREAS customary international law recognizes that all nations have a  
25 duty to cooperate in conserving salmon stocks on the high seas; and

26       WHEREAS the federal government has an obligation to protect the inter-  
27 ests of its citizens and the states from the illegal actions of foreign  
28 nations and citizens of those nations;

29       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests

1 the President of the United States to bring an action before the appropri-  
2 ate international tribunal for recovery of damages on behalf of the State  
3 of Alaska and the fishermen of Alaska for revenue and income lost as a  
4 consequence of the illegal high seas interception of Alaska salmon; and be  
5 it

6       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-  
7 quests the President of the United States to renegotiate existing fishery  
8 treaties and agreements with Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan to provide  
9 procedures whereby individual fishermen, fishermen's associations, and the  
10 states may recover damages from foreign fishing companies for income and  
11 revenue lost due to high seas interception of salmon in violation of the  
12 treaty or agreement; and be it

13       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-  
14 quests the Congress to establish a fund to reimburse Alaska fishermen and  
15 the State of Alaska for the income and revenue lost by the high seas inter-  
16 ception of Alaska salmon and that the fund be financed by a tariff on  
17 fishery products originating in those nations whose fishermen are inter-  
18 cepting Alaska salmon on the high seas.

19       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
20 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of  
21 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable James A.  
22 Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Mosbacher, U.S.  
23 Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House  
24 of Representatives; the Honorable George Deukmejian, Governor of the State  
25 of California; the Honorable Leo T. McCarthy, President of the Senate of  
26 the State of California; the Honorable Willie Lewis Brown, Jr., Speaker of  
27 the Assembly of the State of California; the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus,  
28 Governor of the State of Idaho; the Honorable C. L. Otter, President of the  
29 Senate of the State of Idaho; the Honorable Tom Boyd, Speaker of the House

1 of Representatives of the State of Idaho; the Honorable Heil Goldschmidt,  
2 Governor of the State of Oregon; the Honorable John Kitshaber, President of  
3 the Senate of the State of Oregon; the Honorable Wena Katz, Speaker of the  
4 House of Representatives of the State of Oregon; the Honorable Booth  
5 Gardner, Governor of the State of Washington; the Honorable Joel Pritchard,  
6 President of the Senate of the State of Washington; the Honorable Joseph E.  
7 King, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington;  
8 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Markowski, U.S.  
9 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
10 Alaska delegation in Congress.