

Original sponsor(s): REP. ZAWACKI, Hanley, Leman, Hudson, Collins,
Boucher, Sharp, Swackhammer, Miller, Martin, Taylor, Furnace, Rieger,
Foster, C.Davis, Navarre, Ulmer

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27 (Resources)
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 commercial and sport salmon fishing constitutes the primary
14 economic base of many coastal and river communities of the state, including
15 the Yukon-Kuskokwim-Tanana region, Bristol Bay, Kodiak and the Alaska
16 Peninsula, the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound regions, and Southeast
17 Alaska; and
18 WHEREAS some of these regions are economically disadvantaged, signifi-
19 cant conservation and management problems face the fisheries in many of
20 these regions, and salmon runs in many of these regions have been signifi-
21 cantly below forecasts; and
22 WHEREAS salmon are the principal component of the subsistence economy
23 of most villages in the state; and
24 WHEREAS the poor salmon runs and the increased incidence of net marked
25 salmon have focused attention on the high seas interception of Alaska
26 salmon; and
27 WHEREAS Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan conduct major high seas fisher-
28 ies for squid, groundfish, and other types of fish and these fisheries
29 intercept salmon from Alaska and other Pacific Coast states; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS the federal government has an obligation to protect the

1 interests of its citizens and the states from the illegal actions of
2 foreign nations and citizens of those nations;

3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
4 the President of the United States to initiate action for recovery of
5 damages on behalf of the State of Alaska and the fishermen of Alaska for
6 revenue and income lost as a consequence of the illegal high seas
7 interception of Alaska salmon; and be it

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

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

21 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
22 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
23 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable James A.
24 Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher,
25 Sr., U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of
26 the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George Deukmejian, Gov-
27 ernor of the State of California; the Honorable Leo T. McCarthy, President
28 of the Senate of the State of California; the Honorable Willie Lewis Brown,
29 Jr., Speaker of the Assembly of the State of California; the Honorable

1 Cecil D. Andrus, Governor of the State of Idaho; the Honorable C. L. Otter,
2 President of the Senate of the State of Idaho; the Honorable Tom Boyd,
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho; the
4 Honorable Neil Goldschmidt, Governor of the State of Oregon; the Honorable
5 John Kitzhaber, President of the Senate of the State of Oregon; the
6 Honorable Vera Katz, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State
7 of Oregon; the Honorable Booth Gardner, Governor of the State of
8 Washington; the Honorable Joel Pritchard, President of the Senate of the
9 State of Washington; the Honorable Joseph E. King, Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives of the State of Washington; and to the Honorable Ted
11 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
12 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
13 gress.