

BY DAVIDSON, SWACKHAMMER,
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NAVARRÉ

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to a preference for shore-based

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processors in the allocation of the

7

fishery resources of the North Pacific.

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

9 WHEREAS the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (16 U.S.C. 1802)
10 contains fishery resources of tremendous value, both economically and
11 biologically, to the people of the United States; and

12 WHEREAS shore-based seafood processing plants in the state, through
13 employment, secondary processing, and fishery product sales, contribute
14 significantly to the economies of the Pacific Coast states; and

15 WHEREAS the ownership of shore-based seafood processing plants in the
16 state is highly diversified and broadly based, ranging from state residents
17 to multinational corporations; and

18 WHEREAS the people employed in the state's shore-based plants are a
19 large, diverse group that includes residents of Alaska, Washington, Oregon,
20 California, and many other states; and

21 WHEREAS the processing of seafood at shore-based plants is the founda-
22 tion of the economies of the state's coastal communities; and

23 WHEREAS shore-based seafood processing plants support the local econ-
24 omies, hire local people, buy products from resident fishermen, provide a
25 long-term source of tax revenue for state government, and provide a tax
26 base for local government; and

27 WHEREAS shore-based seafood processing plants represent a long-term
28 capital investment in the fishery resources of the North Pacific and are
29 designed for the stable, continuous, and sustained yield use of these

1 resources; and

2 WHEREAS shore-based seafood processing plants have the capability for
3 the full utilization of the harvested fish and the flexibility to engage in
4 the manufacture of a wide variety of valuable products from the fish; and

5 WHEREAS the discarding and waste of a North Pacific fishery resource
6 is unacceptable when it can be manufactured into valuable food products;
7 and

8 WHEREAS the harvest of North Pacific fishery resource is more reliably
9 and cost-effectively monitored when the product is delivered to shore-based
10 processing plants, resulting in more accurate biological data on which to
11 base resource management decisions; and

12 WHEREAS the factory-trawler and mother-ship fleet that operates in the
13 Exclusive Economic Zone of the North Pacific is difficult to regulate
14 because of the lack of adequate observer coverage; and

15 WHEREAS the factory-trawler and mother-ship fleet, without proper
16 controls, cannot be accurately monitored to determine the actual quantity
17 fish caught, species composition, and actual amount of fish discarded; and

18 WHEREAS this lack of information could jeopardize the accuracy of the
19 available data on the health of North Pacific fishery resources and could
20 result in the sudden and unexpected depletion of the resources; and

21 WHEREAS the depletion of the resources would cause major economic
22 dislocation in the state's coastal communities and in many communities in
23 the other states and would jeopardize the investments made to date in
24 Alaska's shore-based processing plants; and

25 WHEREAS the growth of the shore-based processing industry is con-
26 strained by limited land availability, lack of infrastructure, and the
27 limited availability of marine resources close to the shore-based opera-
28 tions; and

29 WHEREAS the factory-trawler and mother-ship fleet does not experience

1 these restraints on its growth and can exploit vast areas of the ocean that
2 are not accessible to shore-base operations; and

3 WHEREAS the organization charged with overseeing and making recommen-
4 dations for the conservation, management, allocation, and utilization of
5 North Pacific fishery resources in the United States Exclusive Economic
6 Zone is the North Pacific Fishery Management Council;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
8 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to approve a fishery manage-
9 ment plan amendment that would grant shore-based processors a preference
10 for the allocation of the harvestable fishery resources of the North
11 Pacific; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
13 quests the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce to provide
14 final approval for this amendment.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Robert A.
16 Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable
17 William E. Evans, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
18 Administration; the Honorable James W. Brennan, Assistant Administrator for
19 Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; the Honorable John Peterson,
20 Chair of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable
21 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
22 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
23 in Congress.