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1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the interception of Alaska

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salmon on the high seas.

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

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WHEREAS salmon are one of Alaska's most important natural resources;

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and

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WHEREAS Alaska salmon are fully utilized in domestic fisheries and

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constitute the primary economic base of many coastal and river communities

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in the state and a principal component of the subsistence economy of most

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villages in the state; and

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WHEREAS some western Alaska salmon stocks are so severely depressed

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that special conservation measures have been required, including the

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elimination or severe reduction of certain directed commercial salmon

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fisheries and possible additional restrictions on subsistence fisheries;

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and

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WHEREAS the Yukon-Kuskokwim region in western Alaska is one of the

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most economically disadvantaged areas in the United States, where commer-

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cial fishing is the single most important source of cash income, yet pro-

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duces an average of less than \$7,000 per fisherman per year; and

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WHEREAS the southeast Alaska coho run was only one-half the expected

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number for both 1987 and 1988 and the southeast Alaska pink salmon returns

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were just a 10th of the forecast for the 1988 season; and

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WHEREAS southeast Alaska fishermen reported an unusually high number

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of fish scarred with old net marks, indicating these fish had already been

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captured and had escaped nets on the high seas, most likely from foreign

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squid fisheries and illegally directed salmon fisheries; and

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

4 WHEREAS the Japanese, Taiwanese, and Korean squid fleets now total
5 more than 700 vessels, trail more than 10,000 miles of gillnet that is just
6 the right size to capture immature salmon on the high seas, and are virtu-
7 ally unregulated; and

8 WHEREAS Japan has asked the International North Pacific Fisheries
9 Commission to expand Japan's legal salmon fishing areas in the North
10 Pacific Ocean, to convert Japan's mothership fleet on the high seas to a
11 land-based fleet, and to extend the fishing areas of the Japanese squid
12 fleet farther north; and

13 WHEREAS Japan has asked the United States for permission to fish
14 within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone without having to obtain a
15 marine mammal permit, the issuance of which has been blocked by a federal
16 court and would otherwise require Congressional action; and

17 WHEREAS the United States and the Soviet Union have recently signed a
18 comprehensive fisheries agreement that calls for joint cooperation in
19 conserving the salmon resources of both countries; and

20 WHEREAS the Soviet Union has said that elimination of the interception
21 of its salmon by foreign fishermen is one of its top priorities; and

22 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, that
23 established the United States' authority over the 200-mile fishery conser-
24 vation zone, is due for reauthorization by the Congress in 1989; and

25 WHEREAS the Congress will be holding oversight hearings on the Drift-
26 net Impact Monitoring, Assessment, and Control Act of 1987 that required
27 negotiations with the governments of Korea, Taiwan, and Japan for the
28 purpose of curbing illegal and unregulated squid fishing operations; and

29 WHEREAS current United States enforcement activities and observer

1 coverage in both the salmon and squid fisheries are minimal due to serious
2 budget cuts by the Congress;

3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
4 the American section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commis-
5 sion to hold firm in negotiating with the Japanese and to oppose expansion
6 of the Japanese salmon and squid fishing areas, as well as Japan's proposal
7 to convert its mothership fleet on the high seas to a land-based fleet; and
8 be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
10 quests the Congress to continue the current prohibition against the Japan-
11 ese fishing within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
13 quests the United States Department of State to immediately begin negotiat-
14 ing a joint enforcement agreement with the Soviet Union in order to prevent
15 illegal fishing in the North Pacific Ocean; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
17 quests the United States Department of State to begin negotiating with all
18 the salmon producing countries for an international treaty that would ban
19 all high seas salmon fishing; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
21 quests the Congress to use reauthorization of the Magnuson Fisheries Con-
22 servation and Management Act as the vehicle for the amendments necessary to
23 give the United States Coast Guard the enforcement authority necessary to
24 board and seize vessels that are illegally fishing on the high seas; and be
25 it

26 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
27 quests the United States Department of State and the Congress to take
28 whatever actions are necessary to control the illegal and unregulated
29 fishing activities of the Korean, Taiwanese, and Japanese squid fleets; and

1 be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
3 quests the Congress to provide continued funding for the United States high
4 seas observer program and other salmon research programs and to provide
5 funding for increased enforcement activity by the United States Coast
6 Guard.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
8 President of the United States; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U. S.
9 Secretary of State; the Honorable Edward E. Wolfe, Ambassador for Fisheries
10 and the Ocean, U. S. Department of State; the Honorable Robert A.
11 Mosbacher, U. S. Secretary of Commerce; William E. Evans, Administrator,
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Com-
13 merce; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, U. S. Senate Majority Leader; the
14 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; the
15 Honorable Booth Gardiner, Governor of the State of Washington; the Honor-
16 able Neil Goldschmidt, Governor of the State of Oregon; and to the Honor-
17 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
18 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
19 in Congress.