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1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the interception of Alaska
6 salmon and steelhead on the high seas.

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

8 WHEREAS salmon and steelhead are among Alaska's most important natural
9 resources and are a vital part of the commercial and sport fishing indus-
10 tries of the entire western coast of the United States that contribute
11 billions of dollars to the national economy each year; and

12 WHEREAS Alaska salmon and steelhead are fully utilized in domestic
13 fisheries, constitute the primary economic base of many coastal and river
14 communities in the state, are a principal component of the subsistence
15 economy of most villages in the state, and play a key role in the state's
16 developing tourist industry; and

17 WHEREAS high seas harvests of Alaska salmon defeat the state's careful
18 management program for salmon and the rebuilding program for wild stocks
19 and deprive the state of an economic return on its investment in the fish-
20 ing industry; and

21 WHEREAS some western Alaska salmon stocks are so severely depressed
22 that special conservation measures have been required, including the elim-
23 ination or severe reduction of certain directed commercial salmon fisheries
24 on the Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Tanana Rivers, and possible additional re-
25 strictions on subsistence fisheries may be required; and

26 WHEREAS the Yukon-Kuskokwim region in western Alaska is one of the
27 most economically disadvantaged areas in the United States, where commer-
28 cial fishing is the single most important source of cash income, yet pro-
29 duces an average of less than \$7,000 per fisherman per year; and

1 WHEREAS poor salmon runs in southeast Alaska in 1988, the increased
2 incidence of net marked salmon and steelhead, and recent reports of large
3 quantities of illegally harvested salmon being sold in Europe and Asia have
4 heightened public concern over high seas interception of salmon and steel-
5 head; and

6 WHEREAS the illegal harvest and sale of American salmon by foreign
7 fishing fleets are undercutting international sales of salmon harvested by
8 American fishermen and are having significant adverse economic and social
9 effects on the residents of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Cali-
10 fornia; and

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

14 WHEREAS the Japanese, Taiwanese, and South Korean squid fleets now
15 total more than 700 vessels, trail more than 10,000 miles of gillnet that
16 is just the right size to capture immature salmon on the high seas, and are
17 virtually unregulated and unmonitored; and

18 WHEREAS tens of thousands of marine mammals and hundreds of thousands
19 of seabirds die in these gillnets each year; and

20 WHEREAS Japan has asked the International North Pacific Fisheries
21 Commission to expand Japan's legal salmon fishing areas in the North
22 Pacific Ocean and convert Japan's mothership fleet on the high seas to a
23 land-based fleet and has informed the United States that Japan intends to
24 extend the fishing areas of the Japanese squid fleet farther north; and

25 WHEREAS Japan has been denied permission to fish within the United
26 States Exclusive Economic Zone as a result of a federal court decision that
27 held that the United States Department of Commerce did not have the author-
28 ity to issue permits allowing the incidental take of depleted marine mam-
29 mals; and

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

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

6 WHEREAS customary international law generally prohibits nations from
7 harvesting anadromous species on the high seas; and

8 WHEREAS the harvest of nonanadromous species can be accomplished
9 without the harvest of anadromous species, and the cessation of high seas
10 interception of salmon and steelhead stocks can be accomplished without
11 causing economic dislocation; and

12 WHEREAS customary international law recognizes that all nations have a
13 duty to cooperate in conserving fish stocks on the high seas, including
14 salmon and steelhead stocks; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS current United States enforcement activities and observer
23 coverage in both the salmon and squid fisheries are minimal due to serious
24 budget cuts by the Congress;

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

1 be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
3 quests the Congress not to allow the Japanese to fish for salmon and steel-
4 head within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone; and be it

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

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

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
14 quests the Congress to amend the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Man-
15 agement Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 - 1882) to ensure that United States jurisdic-
16 tion over American anadromous species on the high seas will be effectively
17 enforced to stop interception of salmon and steelhead on the high seas; and
18 be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
20 quests the United States Department of State and the Congress to take
21 whatever actions are necessary to control the illegal and unregulated
22 fishing activities of the South Korean, Taiwanese, and Japanese squid
23 fleets; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
25 quests the Congress to expand the Pelly Amendment to

26 (1) provide for sanctions against foreign nations whose fisher-
27 men intercept anadromous species on the high seas or who refuse to cooper-
28 ate with the United States in developing and enforcing international fish-
29 ing regulations to prevent interception of anadromous species on the high

1 seas; and

2 (2) include in the sanctions against those nations embargoes on
3 fisheries and other products imported from those nations; and be it

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

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
10 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
11 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable James A.
12 Baker, III, U. S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Edward E. Wolfe, Amba-
13 sador for Fisheries and the Ocean, U. S. Department of State; the Honorable
14 Robert A. Mosbacher, U. S. Secretary of Commerce; William E. Evans, Admin-
15 istrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department
16 of Commerce; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, U. S. Senate Majority Lead-
17 er; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representa-
18 tives; the Honorable George Deukmejian, Governor of the State of Califor-
19 nia; the Honorable Leo T. McCarthy, President of the Senate of the State of
20 California; the Honorable Willie Lewis Brown, Jr., Speaker of the Assembly
21 of the State of California; the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Governor of the
22 State of Idaho; the Honorable C.L. Otter, President of the Senate of the
23 State of Idaho; the Honorable Tom Boyd, Speaker of the House of Representa-
24 tives of the State of Idaho; the Honorable Neil Goldschmidt, Governor of
25 the State of Oregon; the Honorable John Kitzhaber, President of the Senate
26 of the State of Oregon; the Honorable Vera Katz, Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives of the State of Oregon; the Honorable Booth Gardner, Gover-
28 nor of the State of Washington; the Honorable Joel Pritchard, President of
29 the Senate of the State of Washington; the Honorable Joseph E. King,

1 Speaker of the House of Representative of the State of Washington; and to
2 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
3 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
4 delegation in Congress.