

BY JONES, ELIASON, STURGULEWSKI,
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COGHILL AND KERTTULA

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the high seas interception

6

of Alaska salmon and steelhead.

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

8 WHEREAS the salmon fishing industry is among Alaska's largest
9 industries and generates hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of
10 jobs each year; and

11 WHEREAS fishermen from other states travel to Alaska each year and
12 share in Alaska's salmon and steelhead resources; and

13 WHEREAS Alaskan salmon and steelhead are vitally important to commer-
14 cial fishermen, as well as subsistence fishermen, sport fishermen, and the
15 state's developing tourist industry; and

16 WHEREAS Alaska is committed to maintaining and enhancing its wild
17 stocks of salmon by carefully managing its salmon resources and initiating
18 a 20-year rebuilding program for wild salmon stocks throughout the state
19 and by investing in the fishing industry; and

20 WHEREAS high seas harvests of Alaskan salmon defeat the state's
21 careful management program for salmon and the rebuilding program for wild
22 salmon stocks and deprive the state of an economic return on its investment
23 in the fishing industry; and

24 WHEREAS millions of Alaskan salmon and steelhead are being caught and
25 injured by the high seas driftnet fisheries of Japan, Korea, and Taiwan;
26 and

27 WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service has concluded that an
28 enormous volume of salmon caught by foreign fishermen is being sold in
29 European markets; and

1 WHEREAS the marketing of illegally caught Alaskan salmon depresses the
2 price paid for salmon caught by Alaska and all Pacific Coast fishermen; and

3 WHEREAS Alaskan salmon are an important export product for the state
4 and the nation; and

5 WHEREAS the sale of Alaskan salmon intercepted on the high seas by
6 foreign fishing fleets depresses world demand for salmon harvested in
7 Alaska and adversely affects the United States' balance of trade with other
8 nations; and

9 WHEREAS the harvest of Alaska's salmon and steelhead resources by high
10 seas driftnet fleets is contrary to international law;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
12 the Department of State to negotiate treaties and other international
13 agreements prohibiting the possession and sale of Alaskan salmon and
14 steelhead caught on the high seas and to cooperate with the Soviet Union to
15 reduce interception of salmon and steelhead by developing regulations for
16 the high seas driftnet fisheries; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
18 quests the United States Coast Guard and the National Marine Fisheries
19 Service to continuously monitor foreign high seas fishing fleets, strin-
20 gently enforce existing fishing agreements for the protection of Alaskan
21 salmon stocks, and establish comprehensive international observer programs
22 on foreign fishing vessels; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
24 quests that the Congress appropriate funding necessary to establish inter-
25 national observer programs on foreign fishing vessels and to enforce
26 treaties and other international agreements relating to the high seas
27 interception of Alaskan salmon in order to eliminate the illegal harvest of
28 Alaskan salmon.

29 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,

1 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
2 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim
3 Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable James
4 A. Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher,
5 U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable James W. Brennan, Assistant
6 Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; Admiral
7 Paul A. Yost, Jr., Commandant, United States Coast Guard; the Honorable Leo
8 T. McCarthy, President of the Senate of the State of California; the
9 Honorable Willie Lewis Brown, Jr., Speaker of the Assembly of the State of
10 California; the Honorable C. L. Otter, President of the Senate of the State
11 of Idaho; the Honorable Tom Boyd, Speaker of the House of Representatives
12 of the State of Idaho; the Honorable John Kitzhaber, President of the
13 Senate of the State of Oregon; the Honorable Vera Katz, Speaker of the
14 House of Representatives of the State of Oregon; the Honorable Joel
15 Pritchard, President of the Senate of the State of Washington; the
16 Honorable Joseph E. King, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the
17 State of Washington; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
18 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Repre-
19 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.