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1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48 (Resources)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 Relating to a preference for shore-based  
6 processors and small coastal communities  
7 in the allocation of the fishery  
8 resources of the North Pacific.  
9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
10 WHEREAS the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (16 U.S.C. 1802)  
11 contains fishery resources of tremendous value, both economically and  
12 biologically, to the people of the United States; and  
13 WHEREAS shore-based seafood processing plants in the state, through  
14 employment, secondary processing, and fishery product sales, contribute  
15 significantly to the economies of the Pacific Coast states; and  
16 WHEREAS the ownership of shore-based seafood processing plants in the  
17 state is highly diversified and broadly based, ranging from state residents  
18 to multinational corporations; and  
19 WHEREAS the people employed in the state's shore-based plants are a  
20 large, diverse group that includes residents of Alaska, Washington, Oregon,  
21 California, and many other states; and  
22 WHEREAS the processing of seafood at shore-based plants is the founda-  
23 tion of the economies of the state's coastal communities; and  
24 WHEREAS shore-based seafood processing plants support the local econ-  
25 omies, hire local people, buy products from resident fishermen, provide a  
26 long-term source of tax revenue for state government, and provide a tax  
27 base for local government; and  
28 WHEREAS shore-based seafood processing plants represent a long-term  
29 capital investment in the fishery resources of the North Pacific and are

1 designed for the stable, continuous, and sustained yield use of these  
2 resources; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       WHEREAS the factory-trawler and mother-ship fleet does not experience  
2 these restraints on its growth and can exploit vast areas of the ocean that  
3 are not accessible to shore-base operations; and

4       WHEREAS the americanization of the fisheries within the 200-mile limit  
5 has occurred so rapidly that most small coastal communities in Alaska have  
6 been unable either to enter these fisheries or to maximize their participa-  
7 tion in them; and

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

12       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
13 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to approve a fishery manage-  
14 ment plan amendment that would grant shore-based processors and small  
15 coastal communities a preference for the allocation of the harvestable  
16 fishery resources of the North Pacific; and be it

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

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