

BY SEN. STURGULEWSKI

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 52

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Supporting the establishment of a train-

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ing and operations center in Anchorage

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for federal fishery observer programs

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off Alaska.

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

10 WHEREAS the domestic groundfish fishery off Alaska has rapidly ex-
11 panded in recent years and continues to grow; and

12 WHEREAS there is an increasing emphasis on the use of trained observ-
13 ers on board groundfish vessels to collect meaningful scientific data
14 necessary to manage the domestic groundfish fishery; and

15 WHEREAS there have been several recent proposals to greatly increase
16 the number of observers on board domestic groundfish vessels off Alaska;
17 and

18 WHEREAS the large number of observers necessary to effectively monitor
19 the operations of the domestic groundfish fleet makes it more cost effec-
20 tive for domestic observers who serve off Alaska to be trained and based in
21 Alaska rather than at the Seattle facilities used by the National Marine
22 Fisheries Service to train observers who served on foreign fishing vessels;
23 and

24 WHEREAS the size and scope of domestic observer programs currently
25 under consideration would justify the transfer of the National Marine
26 Fisheries Service observer training program from Seattle to Anchorage; and

27 WHEREAS coordination of state and federal fishery observer programs
28 off Alaska will reduce the costs of both programs and provide an opportun-
29 ity to standardize collection and analysis of vital fishery data; and

1 WHEREAS the University of Alaska has experience in training observers
2 for domestic fisheries and has expressed interest in cooperating in the
3 establishment and operation of a domestic fishery observer program; and

4 WHEREAS funding for fishery observer programs is always limited and it
5 is essential that operating costs of the program be kept to a minimum; and

6 WHEREAS lower operating costs for a domestic fishery observer program
7 will result in savings for the domestic fishing industry which may ultimately
8 bear the cost of the program; and

9 WHEREAS it is logical that an observer program should be based near
10 the fishery being observed;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
12 the National Marine Fisheries Service to establish a facility in Anchorage,
13 Alaska, for the training of domestic fishery observers and for the administration
14 of a domestic fishery observer program for fisheries off Alaska.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Robert A.
16 Mosbacher, U.S. Secretary of Commerce; John A. Knauss, Administrator of the
17 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; William Fox, Assistant
18 Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; Steven
19 Pennoyer, Regional Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries
20 Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
21 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
22 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.