

Original sponsor(s): SEN. STURGULEWSKI

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 52 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the National Marine Fisheries
6 Service to approve a groundfish observer
7 training program at the University of
8 Alaska for federal fishery observer
9 programs off Alaska.

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

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

13 WHEREAS there is a requirement for the use of trained observers on
14 board groundfish vessels to collect essential scientific data necessary to
15 manage the domestic groundfish fishery; and

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

19 WHEREAS the existing training program conducted by the National Marine
20 Fisheries Service at its Seattle facilities will not be able to generate
21 the number of trained personnel necessary to effectively implement the
22 groundfish observer program; and

23 WHEREAS Sea Grant colleges, such as the University of Alaska, have the
24 technical capability to train domestic groundfish observers, thus providing
25 an important service to the federal government; and

26 WHEREAS the University of Alaska has experience in training observers
27 for domestic fisheries and has expressed interest in becoming an observer
28 training center in a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service dated
29 February 23, 1990; and

1 WHEREAS an observer training program at the University of Alaska would
2 provide the Alaska fishing industry with an alternative source of trained
3 observers, thus increasing the availability of trained observers and fos-
4 tering price competition for observer services; and

5 WHEREAS the lower operating costs of the observer program that will
6 result from competition would reduce the costs of a mandatory observer
7 program that are associated with observer training; and

8 WHEREAS an approved groundfish observer training program at the Uni-
9 versity of Alaska can be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service as a
10 model for other Sea Grant colleges that are interested in conducting train-
11 ing for observers deployed in other fisheries throughout the nation;

12 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
13 the National Marine Fisheries Service to approve the University of Alaska
14 groundfish observer training program and establish procedures for certify-
15 ing the Alaska trainees in time for the groundfish fishery off Alaska in
16 the fall of 1990.

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