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Referred: Senate Spec. Com. on Oil & Gas,  
Resources and Finance

6-1685A

BY SEN. ZHAROFF, Sturgulewski, Duncan, Szymanski, Uehling, Pearce

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59 am

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the discharge of ballast

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water by vessels entering the waters of

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Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS Alaska's subsistence, commercial, and recreational fisheries  
10 are important to the economy of the state and are essential to the life-  
11 style of the people of the state; and

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WHEREAS the fishery resources and other aquatic resources of the state  
13 are threatened by the introduction of exotic aquatic organisms brought into  
14 Alaska in the ballast water of tankers and freighters arriving from foreign  
15 ports; and

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WHEREAS in recent years, several exotic planktonic and benthic orga-  
17 nisms have arrived and become established in the estuarine and coastal  
18 waters of the contiguous states of the United States; and

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WHEREAS an exotic organism is suspected of causing a great decline in  
20 the abundance of important food for striped bass in the Sacramento-San  
21 Joaquin estuary of California; and

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WHEREAS exotic eel grass arriving in the ballast of sea-going vessels  
23 has created problems in Humboldt Bay and other estuaries of the Pacific  
24 Coast of the United States; and

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WHEREAS other introductions of exotic organisms probably have occurred  
26 and will occur in the estuarine and coastal waters of the Pacific Coast of  
27 the United States; and

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WHEREAS similar introductions of exotic organisms have occurred in the  
29 Great Lakes and have caused harm to the fisheries of the Great Lakes; and

1        WHEREAS protection of natural aquatic ecosystems and the native fish  
2 and other native aquatic organisms of Alaska is very important to the  
3 people of Alaska;

4        BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
5 the U.S. Coast Guard to adopt regulations prohibiting the discharge of  
6 ballast water that originated in a foreign port into a river, estuary, bay,  
7 or coastal water of Alaska.

8        COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Samuel K.  
9 Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; to the Honor-  
10 able Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Com-  
11 merce; to Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard;  
12 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.  
13 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
14 Alaska delegation in Congress.