

BY SEN. SZYMANSKI

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 75

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to reauthorization of the

6

Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Man-

7

agement Act.

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

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WHEREAS the reauthorization process for the Magnuson Fishery Conserva-
10 tion and Management Act provides an excellent opportunity to review, as-
11 sess, and amend the Act in light of recent developments in the fisheries of
12 the United States; and

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WHEREAS an important issue to be addressed by the Congress during the
14 reauthorization process is the allocation of fishery resources between
15 offshore and land based fishing fleets and processing facilities; and

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WHEREAS the recent dramatic expansion of the offshore catcher-proces-
17 sor fleet poses a significant risk of overcapitalization in the domestic
18 fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean; and

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WHEREAS overcapitalization of a fishery carries a risk of over utili-
20 zation of the fishery; and

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WHEREAS land based fishing fleets and processing facilities are less
22 able to exploit new and distant fisheries than are mobile offshore catch-
23 er-processor fleets after local fishery resources are overexploited; and

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WHEREAS the long-term dependence of land based fishing fleets and
25 processing facilities on local fishery resources promotes conservation and
26 sustained yield of those resources by those fishing fleets and processing
27 facilities; and

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WHEREAS the regional fishery management councils should be given
29 authority to allocate fishery resources between land based and offshore

1 fishing fleets and to protect the fishery-dependent economies of coastal
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives has approved a
4 proposal by participants in the offshore catcher-processor fleet to add two
5 members who reside in Washington or Oregon to the North Pacific Fishery
6 Management Council; and

7 WHEREAS the addition of two non-Alaskan members to the North Pacific
8 Fishery Management Council is not justified by the actions of the council
9 or the status of the fishery resources off Alaska and is an inappropriate
10 attempt to divert the focus of the council from conservative management of
11 the developing offshore fisheries off Alaska and to promote the interests
12 of the burgeoning offshore catcher-processor fleet; and

13 WHEREAS Alaska's member of the United States House of Representatives,
14 Congressman Don Young, supported the legislation containing the proposal to
15 increase the membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council;
16 and

17 WHEREAS the Legislature of the State of Alaska opposes the increase in
18 the membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and is
19 disappointed in the actions of Congressman Don Young;

20 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the proposal
21 to give authority to fishery management councils to allocate fishery re-
22 sources between land based and offshore fishing fleets and to protect the
23 fishery based economies of coastal communities; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED that Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Frank Murkowski
25 are respectfully requested to oppose the proposal to add new members to the
26 North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that Congressman Don Young is respectfully requested
28 to oppose the proposal to add members to the North Pacific Fishery Manage-
29 ment Council and to support the Alaska fishing industry when he serves as a

1 member of the conference committee on the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and
2 Management Act reauthorization bill.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens
4 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
5 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.