

Original sponsor(s): SEN. SZYMANSKI

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 75 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to reauthorization and amend-
6 ment of the Magnuson Fishery Conserva-
7 tion and Management Act.

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

9 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

13 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

16 WHEREAS, although the intent of the Act to "Americanize" the fisheries
17 within the United States exclusive economic zone has been achieved, this
18 has occurred so rapidly that most small coastal communities in Alaska have
19 been unable either to enter these fisheries or to maximize their participa-
20 tion in them; and

21 WHEREAS many persons who reside in the coastal villages on the Bering
22 Sea would like to participate in the multi-billion dollar groundfish
23 fishery that lies at their doorstep, but the high capital investment needed
24 to enter the fishery has prevented most village fishermen from doing so;
25 and

26 WHEREAS a key component of the ability of village fishermen to obtain
27 the necessary capital to become participants in this fishery is guaranteed
28 year-round access to the resource that could be provided for through the
29 addition of a community development quota provision to the Act; and

1 WHEREAS Senator Ted Stevens has incorporated this concept into S. 1900
2 that amends and reauthorizes the Act and proposes a five percent set-aside
3 for communities that satisfy established criteria as "economically disad-
4 vantaged communities"; and

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS the long-term dependence of land based fishing fleets and
14 processing facilities on local fishery resources promotes conservation and
15 sustained yield of those resources by those fishing fleets and processing
16 facilities; and

17 WHEREAS the regional fishery management councils should be given
18 authority to allocate fishery resources between land based and offshore
19 fishing fleets and to protect the fishery-dependent economies of coastal
20 communities; and

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

25 WHEREAS the addition of two non-Alaskan members to the North Pacific
26 Fishery Management Council is not justified by the actions of the council
27 or the status of the fishery resources off Alaska and is an inappropriate
28 attempt to divert the focus of the council from conservative management of
29 the developing offshore fisheries off Alaska and to promote the interests

1 of the burgeoning offshore catcher-processor fleet; and

2 WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives passed legislation
3 containing the proposal to increase the membership of the North Pacific
4 Fishery Management Council;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the increase
6 in the membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and is
7 disappointed in the actions of the United States House of Representatives;
8 and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the pro-
10 posal to give authority to fishery management councils to allocate fishery
11 resources between land based and offshore fishing fleets in order to pro-
12 tect the fishery based economies of coastal communities; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
14 quests the United States Congress to adopt the amendment to the Magnuson
15 Fishery Conservation and Management Act proposed in S. 1900 to provide
16 assistance to economically disadvantaged fishing communities; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the legislature's highest priority that
18 the current geographic composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management
19 Council be retained and that Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Frank
20 Murkowski are respectfully requested to oppose the proposal to add new
21 members to the council; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that Congressman Don Young is respectfully requested
23 to oppose the proposal to add members to the North Pacific Fishery Manage-
24 ment Council and to support the Alaska fishing industry when he serves as a
25 member of the conference committee on the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and
26 Management Act reauthorization bill.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
28 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
29 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert A.

1 Mosbacher, Sr., U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley,
2 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted
3 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
4 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
5 gress.