

Original sponsor(s): SEN. SZYMANSKI, Kerttula, Eliason, Jones, Rodey,  
Kelly, Uehling, Duncan, Coghill, Fischer, Zharoff

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR 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 fish-  
23 ery that lies at their doorstep, but the high capital investment needed to  
24 enter the fishery has prevented most village fishermen from doing so; and

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

29 WHEREAS Senator Ted Stevens has incorporated this concept into S. 1900

1 that amends and reauthorizes the Act and proposes a five percent set-aside  
2 for communities that satisfy established criteria as "economically disad-  
3 vantaged communities"; and

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS some members of the fisheries and marine science communities  
21 have advocated limiting entry into Alaska bottomfish fisheries to prevent  
22 over utilization of these fishery resources; and

23 WHEREAS over 90 percent of the catcher-processor fleet harvesting  
24 bottomfish and crab species in Alaskan waters are based outside of Alaska;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS a limited entry system requiring experience in bottomfish  
27 fisheries would prohibit many Alaska residents from participating in these  
28 fisheries; and

29 WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives has approved a

1 proposal by participants in the offshore catcher-processor fleet to add two  
2 members who reside in Washington or Oregon to the North Pacific Fishery  
3 Management Council; and

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

10 WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives passed legislation  
11 containing the proposal to increase the membership of the North Pacific  
12 Fishery Management Council;

13 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the increase  
14 in the membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and is  
15 disappointed in the actions of the United States House of Representatives;  
16 and be it

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

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

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the imposi-  
26 tion under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of any  
27 limited entry system for bottomfish fisheries in Alaska that does not  
28 assure equity of entry for Alaska residents, does not address quota  
29 considerations for new fishermen, or has not been subject to an extensive

1 public hearing process; and be it

2       FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the legislature's highest priority that  
3 the current geographic composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management  
4 Council be retained and that Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Frank  
5 Murkowski are respectfully requested to oppose the proposal to add new  
6 members to the council; and be it

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

12       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
13 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of  
14 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert A.  
15 Mosbacher, Sr., U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley,  
16 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted  
17 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable  
18 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-  
19 gress.