

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 81

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to the United Nations resolu-

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tion on pelagic driftnet fishing and

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research on the pelagic driftnet fisher-

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ies of the North Pacific Ocean.

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

10 WHEREAS fishing fleets from Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan are con-
11 tinuing to pursue intensive and far-reaching large scale pelagic driftnet
12 fisheries in the Pacific Ocean; and

13 WHEREAS in recognition of the international concern regarding the
14 effects of large scale pelagic driftnet fishing the United Nations passed a
15 resolution, "Large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impacts on the
16 living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas," that calls for a
17 scientific review of large scale pelagic driftnet fishing by June 30, 1991,
18 and moratoria on all large scale pelagic driftnet fishing by June 30, 1992,
19 unless effective conservation measures are in effect; and

20 WHEREAS the State of Alaska applauds the intent of the resolution, but
21 believes there is sufficient justification to strengthen the resolution in
22 order to achieve an immediate and unequivocal ban on the large scale use of
23 pelagic driftnets in the North Pacific Ocean; and

24 WHEREAS comprehensive scientific data must be collected during the
25 1990 and 1991 driftnet fishing seasons in order for the United States to
26 develop a comprehensive, scientifically based argument to protect the
27 interests of United States fishermen and to demonstrate the harmful effects
28 of large scale pelagic driftnet fishing on salmon, steelhead, tuna, marine
29 mammals, seabirds, and other marine life to the international community;

1 and

2 WHEREAS the Congress provided \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 1990 to ad-
3 dress pelagic driftnet fishery issues; and

4 WHEREAS the funding provided by Congress is not sufficient to support
5 the level of effort required to conduct an adequate scientific program that
6 can provide the data necessary to protect United States interests and to
7 meet the June 30, 1991, deadline; and

8 WHEREAS there is an urgent need for additional funding to support a
9 major pelagic driftnet fishery observer program, conduct the necessary
10 scientific studies, and provide adequate support for these programs, in-
11 cluding United States research vessels, in order to provide the indepen-
12 dently verifiable and comprehensive scientific data that the United States
13 must present by June 30, 1991, and by the 1992 deadline for the moratoria
14 on large scale pelagic driftnet fishing; and

15 WHEREAS the State of Alaska and the fishing industry on the west coast
16 of the United States are requesting that the Congress provide \$7,500,000 in
17 fiscal year 1991 for the necessary research;

18 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges

19 (1) the President of the United States to continue efforts
20 toward an immediate and unequivocal ban on large scale pelagic driftnet
21 fishing by working to strengthen the United Nations resolution on pelagic
22 driftnet fishing;

23 (2) the Secretary of State and Secretary of Commerce to under-
24 take a major scientific research program to gather the data that is needed
25 by the June 30, 1991, deadline; and

26 (3) the Congress to appropriate the funds needed to implement a
27 scientific research program during the 1990 and 1991 driftnet fishing
28 seasons, including the \$7,500,000 requested by the State of Alaska and the
29 west coast fishing industry.

1 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
2 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
3 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S.
4 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable James A.
5 Baker III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr.,
6 U.S. Secretary of Commerce; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-
7 able Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
8 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.