

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES ZAWACKI, Leman, Martin, M.A.Miller, G.Phillips, Sharp**

**Introduced: 5/1/91**

**Referred: Resources, Finance**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to compensation for lost revenue and income caused by high seas interceptions**  
**2 of Alaska salmon.**

**3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**4 WHEREAS salmon are the mainstay of the Alaska fishing industry and are the primary source**  
**5 of income for Alaska fishermen; and**

**6 WHEREAS the Alaska salmon fishery is a direct and indirect source of revenue for the State**  
**7 of Alaska; and**

**8 WHEREAS commercial and sport salmon fishing constitutes the primary economic base of many**  
**9 coastal and river communities of the state, including the Yukon-Kuskokwim-Tanana region, Bristol Bay,**  
**10 Kodiak and the Alaska Peninsula, the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound regions, and Southeast**  
**11 Alaska; and**

**12 WHEREAS some of these regions are economically disadvantaged, significant conservation and**  
**13 management problems face the fisheries in many of these regions, and salmon runs in many of these**  
**14 regions have been significantly below forecasts; and**

**15 WHEREAS salmon are the principal component of the subsistence economy of most villages**  
**16 in the state; and**

1           **WHEREAS** the poor salmon runs and the increased incidence of net marked salmon have  
2 focused attention on the high seas interception of Alaska salmon; and

3           **WHEREAS** Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan conduct major high seas fisheries for squid,  
4 groundfish, and other types of fish and these fisheries intercept salmon from Alaska and other Pacific  
5 Coast states; and

6           **WHEREAS** it is estimated that the Japanese land-based and mothership fleets alone could be  
7 intercepting as many as 2,000,000 salmon each year; and

8           **WHEREAS** there have been recurring reports of large quantities of illegally harvested salmon  
9 being sold in Europe and Asia; and

10          **WHEREAS** the National Marine Fisheries Service has concluded that an enormous volume of  
11 salmon caught by foreign fishermen is being sold on European markets; and

12          **WHEREAS** the illegal harvest and sale of Alaska salmon by foreign fishing fleets are  
13 undercutting international sales of salmon by Alaska fishermen and are having significant adverse  
14 economic effects on residents of Alaska; and

15          **WHEREAS** the fishermen of Alaska cannot afford the direct loss of salmon destined for Alaska  
16 fisheries and the indirect loss of income due to unfair competition from the illegal sale of salmon that  
17 Alaska fishermen otherwise would have caught; and

18          **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska cannot afford the loss of revenue it derives from the salmon  
19 fishery and the increased cost of social services to economically depressed salmon fishing communities;  
20 and

21          **WHEREAS** illegal high seas interceptions of Alaska salmon deprive the State of Alaska of an  
22 economic return on its substantial investment in the state's fishing and processing industries; and

23          **WHEREAS** it is difficult for individual fishermen or the State of Alaska, without the cooperation  
24 of the federal government, to obtain compensation for the loss of the Alaska salmon resource caused by  
25 foreign high seas fishing fleets; and

26          **WHEREAS** customary international law recognizes that all nations have a duty to cooperate in  
27 conserving salmon stocks on the high seas; and

28          **WHEREAS** the federal government has an obligation to protect the interests of its citizens and  
29 the states from the illegal actions of foreign nations and citizens of those nations;

30          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the President of the  
31 United States to initiate action for recovery of damages on behalf of the State of Alaska and the  
32 fishermen of Alaska for revenue and income lost as a consequence of the illegal high seas interception

1 of Alaska salmon; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the President  
3 of the United States to renegotiate existing fishery treaties and agreements with Japan, South Korea, and  
4 Taiwan to provide procedures whereby individual fishermen, fishermen's associations, and the states may  
5 recover damages from foreign fishing companies for income and revenue lost due to high seas  
6 interception of salmon in violation of the treaty or agreement; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Congress  
8 to establish a fund to reimburse Alaska fishermen and the State of Alaska for the income and revenue  
9 lost by the high seas interception of Alaska salmon and that the fund be financed by a tariff on fishery  
10 products originating in those nations whose fishermen are intercepting Alaska salmon on the high seas.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
12 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;  
13 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable George J.  
14 Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, Secretary of the U.S.  
15 Department of State; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of  
16 Commerce; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
17 Honorable Pete Wilson, Governor of the State of California; the Honorable Leo T. McCarthy, President  
18 of the Senate of the State of California; the Honorable Willie Lewis Brown, Jr., Speaker of the Assembly  
19 of the State of California; the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Governor of the State of Idaho; the Honorable  
20 C. L. Otter, President of the Senate of the State of Idaho; the Honorable Tom Boyd, Speaker of the  
21 House of Representatives of the State of Idaho; the Honorable Barbara Roberts, Governor of the State  
22 of Oregon; the Honorable John Kitzhaber, President of the Senate of the State of Oregon; the Honorable  
23 Larry L. Campbell, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon; the Honorable  
24 Booth Gardner, Governor of the State of Washington; the Honorable Joel Pritchard, President of the  
25 Senate of the State of Washington; the Honorable Joseph E. King, Speaker of the House of  
26 Representatives of the State of Washington; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
27 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
28 delegation in Congress.