

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKO**

**Introduced: 5/7/91**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources, Finance**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to federal oil leases in the North Aleutian Basin section of Bristol Bay.**

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

**3 WHEREAS** the state supports the prudent and orderly development of the state's outer  
**4 continental shelf oil and gas resources in an environmentally acceptable manner; and**

**5 WHEREAS**, with the exception of the North Aleutian Basin section of Bristol Bay, the state has  
**6 not requested a ban or moratorium on oil and gas leasing and drilling on any of Alaska's outer**  
**7 continental shelf planning areas; and**

**8 WHEREAS** the state does not receive any significant revenue from outer continental shelf oil  
**9 and gas lease sales; and**

**10 WHEREAS** an annual average of 45,000,000 to 60,000,000 adult salmon migrate through the  
**11 North Aleutian Basin to the Bristol Bay river system, and an annual average of 1,000,000,000 salmon**  
**12 smolt out-migrate through the North Aleutian Basin to ocean feeding grounds; and**

**13 WHEREAS** the entire North Aleutian Basin is within an area defined by the International Pacific  
**14 Halibut Commission as a halibut nursery conservation area; and**

**15 WHEREAS** the current federal oil drilling leases in the North Aleutian Basin are located in a  
**16 vital red king crab habitat area; and**

1       **WHEREAS** Bristol Bay region domestic commercial fisheries for salmon, crab, herring, pollock,  
2 halibut, yellowfin sole, rock sole, cod, and other groundfish have an average annual wholesale value of  
3 approximately \$1,000,000,000 and employ over 10,000 people annually; and

4       **WHEREAS** the state recognized the economic importance of the Bristol Bay area when it set  
5 aside the Bristol Bay fisheries reserve; and

6       **WHEREAS** currently there is a moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin;  
7 and

8       **WHEREAS** there is an element of risk in all oil and gas exploration, development, and  
9 transportation;

10       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds the existing benefits to the people  
11 of Alaska and the nation from the Bristol Bay fisheries far outweigh the federal government's need to  
12 explore the region for oil and gas; and be it

13       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the development of a federal  
14 plan to repurchase the oil and gas leases that were sold in North Aleutian Basin Lease Sale 92 or to  
15 allow the lessees to credit the cost of the leases towards other federal outer continental shelf sales; and  
16 be it

17       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor  
18 of Alaska, the appropriate federal officials, and the appropriate federal legislators to enter into  
19 discussions for the purpose of reaching an agreement on a repurchase or credit plan for the leases that  
20 resulted from Lease Sale 92; and be it

21       **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that a Lease Sale 92 repurchase or  
22 credit plan should include a provision that the leases that are repurchased or included in a credit plan  
23 may not be resold and that future lease sales may not be authorized for the North Aleutian Basin; and  
24 be it

25       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States  
26 Congress and the United States Secretary of the Interior to continue the current moratorium on oil and  
27 gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin outer continental shelf planning area until the repurchase or  
28 credit plan is implemented.

29       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
30 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;  
31 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate and Chair of the Senate  
32 Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of

1 Representatives; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable  
2 Richard A. Gephardt, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole,  
3 Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert H. Michel, Minority Leader of the U.S. House  
4 of Representatives; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and  
5 Resources; the Honorable Jamie L. Whitten, Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations; the  
6 Honorable George Miller, Chair of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable  
7 Sidney R. Yates, Chair of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, House Committee on  
8 Appropriations; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of the Interior; Dr. John A. Knauss,  
9 Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Barry Williamson, Director,  
10 Minerals Management Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,  
11 United States Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, United States Representative, members of the  
12 Alaska delegation in Congress.