

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES DAVIDSON, Navarre, Jacko, Mackie

Introduced: 1/14/92

Referred: Resources, Labor & Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 Opposing Individual Fishery Quota management systems for the Alaskan halibut and
2 sablefish fisheries and other Alaskan fisheries.

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

4 WHEREAS the Alaskan commercial fishing industry merges an established system of biological
5 management of fishery resources, a social foundation for Alaskan coastal communities, and unique and
6 productive livelihoods for many thousands of Alaskans; and

7 WHEREAS the Alaskan halibut and sablefish resources are generally in a biologically healthy
8 condition under the current open access management system; and

9 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) has identified problems
10 in the halibut and sablefish fisheries without developing a comprehensive option based on the flexible
11 management actions available under the open access management system that may address those
12 problems, such as gear restrictions, tank inspections, flexible time frames for fishery openings to
13 accommodate weather, et cetera; and

14 WHEREAS the NPFMC is seeking to implement an Individual Fishery Quota (IFQ), or share
15 quota, management system in the Alaskan halibut and sablefish fisheries; and

16 WHEREAS an IFQ management system will initially allocate shares consisting of a percentage

1 of the annual total allowable catch of a fishery resource to individual fishermen; and

2 **WHEREAS** implementation of an IFQ management system will instantly create permanent,
3 exclusive, and salable access rights to the halibut and sablefish fishery resources of the North Pacific
4 Ocean; and

5 **WHEREAS** the value of quota shares as salable property will make an IFQ management system
6 irreversible; and

7 **WHEREAS** an IFQ management system will, through attrition, eventually concentrate ownership
8 of the right to harvest the fishery resource into the hands of those with the greatest wealth and financial
9 advantages; and

10 **WHEREAS** the implementation of IFQ management systems will create a privileged class of
11 fishermen based on their fortuitous involvement in the fishing industry during a particular period of time
12 and will seriously inhibit those fishermen who wish to enter those fisheries in the future; and

13 **WHEREAS** an IFQ management system will seriously inhibit the ability of fishermen to
14 diversify among fisheries as resource and market conditions fluctuate and will therefore hinder the ability
15 of fishermen to operate stable and successful fishing businesses; and

16 **WHEREAS** the NPFMC has not given adequate consideration to or realistically estimated the
17 practical enforcement costs, strategies, or funding sources required to ensure effective at-sea and
18 shoreside fishery conservation measures to prevent illegal fishing, highgrading, false reporting, black
19 marketing, et cetera of fish caught under an IFQ management system; and

20 **WHEREAS** the NPFMC has not given sufficient consideration to the economic and social effects
21 that IFQ management systems will have on Alaskans and Alaskan coastal communities; and

22 **WHEREAS** testimony given to the NPFMC on IFQ management systems by individual
23 fishermen, industry, municipalities, and organizations overwhelmingly opposes such management
24 systems; and

25 **WHEREAS** an open access management system, while not perfect, has provided for proven,
26 effective, and cost-efficient administration and enforcement of resource conservation efforts, while
27 allowing fishermen and the fishing industry the flexibility to diversify among existing fisheries and to
28 develop new fisheries as conditions and markets change; and

29 **WHEREAS** implementation of IFQ management systems in any Alaskan fishery will result in
30 serious, compound, negative effects for individual fishermen, the Alaskan commercial fishing industry,
31 Alaskan coastal communities with a fishing-based economy, and the overall economy of the state;

32 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary of

1 Commerce to direct the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to conduct extensive socio-economic
2 impact studies and seriously consider the results of those studies before initiation of any Individual
3 Fishery Quota management system for any Alaskan fishery; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the North Pacific
5 Fishery Management Council to aggressively seek and to carefully consider public comment from all
6 segments of the commercial fishing industry in order to develop a comprehensive management plan for
7 the Alaskan halibut and sablefish fisheries utilizing the flexible management tools available under the
8 current open access management system; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the use of state agency
10 resources, state operated facilities, state funds, or other forms of cooperation to implement an Individual
11 Fishery Quota management system; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary
13 of Commerce, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the
14 Director of the Office of Management and Budget to disapprove any Individual Fishery Quota
15 management system that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council recommends for the Alaskan
16 halibut and sablefish fisheries, or any other Alaskan fishery.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barbara Franklin, Secretary of the U.S.
18 Department of Commerce; the Honorable John A. Knauss, Administrator, National Oceanic and
19 Atmospheric Administration; the Honorable Richard G. Darman, Director of the Office of Management
20 and Budget; the Honorable Richard Lauber, Chair of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council;
21 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
22 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.