

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61 (RESOURCES)**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA****SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION****BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE****Offered: 2/7/92****Referred: Labor & Commerce****Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DAVIDSON, Navarre, Jacko, Mackie, Kubina, Brown, Ivan, Zawacki, Hudson****A RESOLUTION**

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS International Pacific Halibut Commission and North Pacific Fishery Management
8 Council (NPFMC) studies show that the Alaska halibut and sablefish resources are generally in a
9 biologically healthy condition under the current open access management system; and

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

14 WHEREAS the NPFMC is seeking to implement an Individual Fishery Quota (IFQ) management
15 system in the Alaska 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 Alaska coastal communities; and

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

25 **WHEREAS** while problems exist under the open access management system, it has provided for
26 proven, effective, and cost-efficient administration and enforcement of resource conservation efforts,
27 while allowing fishermen and the fishing industry the flexibility to diversify among existing fisheries and
28 to develop new fisheries as conditions and markets change; and

29 **WHEREAS** implementation of IFQ management systems in any Alaska fishery will result in
30 serious, compound, negative effects for individual fishermen, the Alaska commercial fishing industry,
31 Alaska 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 contract for extensive independent
2 socio-economic impact studies of any management system for the Alaska fishing industry and to
3 seriously consider the full scope of such a system before considering any allocative management measure
4 for any fishery; and be it

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

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

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