

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 64**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES JACKO, Larson, Leman, Ivan, G.Phillips, Foster, Moyer, Mackie, Taylor, Zawacki, R.Phillips**

**Introduced: 1/29/92**

**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to an article on the quality of fresh salmon published in Consumer Reports**  
**2 magazine and to a mandatory seafood inspection program.**

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

**4 WHEREAS** the Consumers Union of the United States, Inc., has published an article on the  
**5 quality of fresh salmon in its magazine, Consumer Reports; and**

**6 WHEREAS** the article is based on only 20 samples collected in a few retail markets; and

**7 WHEREAS** the information contained in the article is misleading and incomplete because it does  
**8 not distinguish between fresh or frozen salmon, pen-reared or ocean raised salmon, identify the species**  
**9 of salmon tested, or identify the state, region, or country of origin of the salmon tested; and**

**10 WHEREAS** Alaska salmon, as well as salmon from other states, are generally identified by  
**11 species in retail and wholesale seafood markets in the United States; and**

**12 WHEREAS** the article alleges that the salmon tested contained unacceptable levels of  
**13 polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's); and**

**14 WHEREAS** the allegation that salmon contain unacceptable levels of PCB's is unwarranted in  
**15 regard to Alaska salmon; and**

**16 WHEREAS** the federal Food and Drug Administration, the federal Environmental Protection

1 Agency, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation have stated that there are no PCB  
2 problems associated with Alaska salmon; and

3       **WHEREAS** the authors of the article adopted their own standards for acceptable levels of PCB's  
4 that are inconsistent with standards of the federal Food and Drug Administration; and

5       **WHEREAS** federal and state officials were not given an opportunity to scientifically address  
6 claims of PCB contamination before a public announcement of the article was made; and

7       **WHEREAS** Alaska has the most pristine waters in the world according to the National Oceanic  
8 and Atmospheric Administration; and

9       **WHEREAS** the analysis of water quality at strategic sampling sites by the National Oceanic and  
10 Atmospheric Administration has demonstrated that the fishing grounds of Alaska are located in water  
11 that is free of pollutants; and

12       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has a year-round seafood  
13 inspection program that focuses on eliminating contamination and deterioration of seafood products  
14 produced in Alaska and that is a model program for the rest of the nation; and

15       **WHEREAS** the Alaska seafood industry is the largest employer in Alaska; and

16       **WHEREAS** the Alaska seafood industry is the second largest source of revenue for the State of  
17 Alaska;

18       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature disapproves of the practice employed by  
19 the authors of the article in Consumer Reports magazine in finding that retail fresh salmon products are  
20 contaminated without identifying the species of salmon studied and the point of origin of the salmon  
21 studied; and be it

22       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recommends that Consumer Reports  
23 magazine consult with the federal Food and Drug Administration and the federal Environmental  
24 Protection Agency before publicly releasing further reports of seafood contamination; and be it

25       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Congress  
26 to establish a national mandatory seafood inspection program.

27       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
28 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;  
29 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S.  
30 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Rhonda H. Karpatkin, Executive Director,  
31 Consumers Union of the United States, Inc.; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
32 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska

1 delegation in Congress.