

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 64 (RESOURCES)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 4/14/92**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES JACKO, Larson, Leman, Ivan, G.Phillips, Foster, Moyer, Mackie, Taylor, Zawacki, R.Phillips, Lincoln**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Urging the media to inform the public about the quality of fresh seafood sold in the  
2 United States and urging the federal government to establish a national mandatory seafood  
3 inspection program.

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

5 **WHEREAS** the seafood industry is the largest private employer in Alaska and the second largest  
6 source of revenue for the State of Alaska; and

7 **WHEREAS** Alaskans deeply care about the quality of Alaska seafood products and the national  
8 and international reputation of Alaska seafood products; and

9 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska has long maintained a year-round seafood inspection program  
10 to eliminate contamination and deterioration of seafood products produced in the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Alaska seafood inspection program is a model program for the rest of the nation;  
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** the Consumers Union of the United States, Inc., has recently published an article  
14 on the quality of fresh seafood based on samples collected in only two retail markets - Chicago and New  
15 York - that has seriously questioned the quality and wholesomeness of fresh seafood sold in the United  
16 States; and

1       **WHEREAS** the article is damaging to Alaska's seafood industry because it does not distinguish  
2 between fresh or frozen salmon or pen-reared or ocean raised salmon, identify the species of salmon  
3 tested, or identify the state, region, or country of origin of the salmon and other fish tested; and

4       **WHEREAS** the article found that 43 percent of the salmon tested contained unacceptable levels  
5 of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's); and

6       **WHEREAS** the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the  
7 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation have stated that there are no PCB problems  
8 associated with Alaska salmon; and

9       **WHEREAS** Alaska has the most pristine waters in the world according the National Oceanic and  
10 Atmospheric Administration, as demonstrated by water quality sampling at strategic sites across Alaska;  
11 and

12       **WHEREAS** American per capita consumption of fish has increased nearly 25 percent over the  
13 past decade; and

14       **WHEREAS** federal inspection programs have long existed for meat and poultry but not for  
15 seafood;

16       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the media to educate and  
17 inform the American public about the quality of all fresh seafood sold in the United States; and be it

18       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Congress  
19 to establish a national mandatory seafood inspection program to ensure that consumers nationwide  
20 receive the highest quality seafood products possible.

21       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
22 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;  
23 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S.  
24 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Edward R. Madigan, Secretary of  
25 the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Honorable David A. Kessler, Commissioner, Food and Drug  
26 Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Rhonda H. Karpatkin, Executive  
27 Director, Consumers Union of the United States, Inc.; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
28 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
29 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.