SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR HOFFMAN

Introduced: 2/20/91
Referred: Senate Special Committee on Domestic and International Fisheries and Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the bycatch of Alaska chinook salmon by United States and foreign trawl**
2 **fisheries.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** salmon of Alaska origin are important to the people of Alaska for subsistence, sport,
5 and commercial fisheries; and

6 **WHEREAS** chinook salmon are one of the most prized and valuable species of Alaska salmon;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS** chinook salmon originating in Alaska range in a broad area up and down the coast
9 of North America and throughout the North Pacific; and

10 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska has a vested interest in the conservation of chinook salmon
11 populations originating within Alaska, and throughout western North America, due to its active
12 involvement in numerous national and international salmon management bodies and treaties; and

13 **WHEREAS** new information from the National Marine Fisheries Service observer program
14 reveals a significant bycatch of chinook salmon in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone that
15 affects the chinook salmon conservation programs of the State of Alaska and the Pacific Salmon
16 Commission allocation of chinook salmon to the Southeast Alaska troll fishery; and

1 **WHEREAS** new information from domestic and federal observers also strongly indicates a
2 significant bycatch of chinook salmon in the international waters of the central Bering Sea "donut hole";
3 and

4 **WHEREAS** biological information developed by the Fisheries Research Institute of the
5 University of Washington and accepted by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission has
6 determined that the chinook salmon in the Bering Sea are primarily North American in origin and from
7 streams in Southcentral, Southeast, and western Alaska as well as from British Columbia; and

8 **WHEREAS** the chinook salmon bycatch is not subtracted from Alaska management programs
9 for discrete populations of chinook salmon; and

10 **WHEREAS** the chinook salmon fisheries on the Yukon River and in Southeast Alaska are
11 transboundary river fisheries, and the lack of chinook salmon strains the relationship among Alaska, the
12 other West Coast states, and Canada, including its provinces and territories;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor petition the United States
14 Secretary of Commerce to implement emergency regulations to limit the bycatch of chinook salmon in
15 the 1991 trawl fisheries in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, and to expedite a 1992 chinook
16 salmon bycatch plan amendment to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish
17 Fishery Management Plans; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor petition the North Pacific Fishery Management
19 Council and the United States Secretary of Commerce to implement emergency regulations limiting the
20 bycatch of Alaska chinook salmon by domestic trawlers in the central Bering Sea "donut hole"; and be
21 it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor petition the United States Secretary of Commerce
23 to identify the complete range of chinook salmon as defined in the 1990 revisions of the Magnuson
24 Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implement a rebuttable presumption for the interception
25 of chinook salmon beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor petition the United States Secretary of State,
27 Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to immediately initiate international negotiations
28 to end fishing within the "donut hole" in order to protect Alaska chinook salmon; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor request the United States Secretary of State,
30 Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to authorize the United States Coast Guard to
31 seize, under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act as well as other
32 treaties or bilateral agreements as might be appropriate, vessels discovered with contraband salmon on

1 board, with such vessels to be sequestered in United States ports until disposition by the Federal Courts.

2 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James A. Baker, III, Secretary of the

3 U.S. Department of State; to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department

4 of Commerce; to the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation;

5 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the

6 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.