

**CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 (FSH)**

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

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

**Offered: 3/11/91  
Referred: Resources**

**Sponsor(s): SENATOR HOFFMAN**

**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 extensively along the Alaska coast and  
9 out into 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 threatens 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** bycatch occurs on a mixture of salmon stocks well before run strength can be  
9 assessed and thus reduces the number of fish available in inshore areas and increases the risk of  
10 overharvest; and

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

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

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

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

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

30       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor request the United States Secretary of State,  
31 Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to authorize the United States Coast Guard to  
32 seize, under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act as well as other

1 treaties or bilateral agreements as might be appropriate, vessels discovered with contraband salmon on  
2 board, with such vessels to be sequestered in United States ports until disposition by the Federal Courts.

3       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James A. Baker, III, Secretary of the  
4 U.S. Department of State; to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department  
5 of Commerce; to the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation;  
6 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
7 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.