

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 (RESOURCES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/21/91
Referred: Rules

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 is
14 documenting a significant bycatch of chinook salmon in the groundfish trawl fisheries in the United
15 States Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** the bycatch of chinook salmon threatens to affect allocation, conservation, and

1 management programs within the State of Alaska and confound international allocation and equity issues
2 for these chinook fisheries which are managed under the provisions of the United States-Canada Pacific
3 Salmon Treaty; and

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

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

11 **WHEREAS** bycatch occurs on a mixture of salmon stocks well before run strength can be
12 assessed and thus reduces the number of fish available in inshore areas and increases the risk of
13 overharvest; and

14 **WHEREAS** the documented bycatch of any chinook salmon originating in the Canadian portion
15 of the transboundary Yukon River can adversely affect United States interests in the ongoing United
16 States-Canada Yukon River treaty negotiations;

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

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

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

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

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor request the United States Secretary of State,
2 Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to authorize the United States Coast Guard to
3 seize, under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act as well as other
4 treaties or bilateral agreements as might be appropriate, vessels discovered with contraband salmon on
5 board, with such vessels to be sequestered in United States ports until disposition by the Federal Courts.

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