

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 (RESOURCES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/12/91

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR HOFFMAN

REPRESENTATIVE Lincoln

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 and the Gulf of Alaska are primarily North
10 American in origin and from streams in Southcentral, Southeast, and Western Alaska as well as from
11 British Columbia; and

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

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

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

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

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

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor petition the United States Secretary of State,
32 Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to immediately initiate international negotiations

1 to end fishing within the "donut hole" in order to protect Alaska chinook salmon; and be it

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

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