

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY SENATORS ZHAROFF, Pearce**

**Introduced: 1/23/91**  
**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to the discharge of ballast water by vessels entering the waters of Alaska.**

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

**3       WHEREAS** Alaska's subsistence, commercial, and recreational fisheries are important to the  
**4 economy of the state and are essential to the lifestyle of the people of the state; and**

**5       WHEREAS** the fishery resources and other aquatic resources of the state are threatened by the  
**6 introduction of exotic aquatic organisms brought into Alaska in the ballast water of tankers and freighters**  
**7 arriving from foreign ports; and**

**8       WHEREAS** in recent years, several exotic planktonic and benthic organisms have arrived and  
**9 become established in the estuarine and coastal waters of the contiguous states of the United States; and**

**10       WHEREAS** an exotic organism is suspected of causing a great decline in the abundance of  
**11 important food for striped bass in the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary of California; and**

**12       WHEREAS** exotic eel grass arriving in the ballast of sea-going vessels has created problems in  
**13 Humboldt Bay and other estuaries of the Pacific Coast of the United States; and**

**14       WHEREAS** other introductions of exotic organisms probably have occurred and will occur in  
**15 the estuarine and coastal waters of the Pacific Coast of the United States; and**

**16       WHEREAS** similar introductions of exotic organisms have occurred in the Great Lakes and have

1 caused harm to the fisheries of the Great Lakes; and

2       **WHEREAS** protection of natural aquatic ecosystems and the native fish and other native aquatic  
3 organisms of Alaska is very important to the people of Alaska;

4       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the U.S. Coast Guard  
5 to adopt regulations

6               (1) prohibiting the discharge of ballast water that originated in a foreign port into a river,  
7 estuary, bay, or coastal water of Alaska; and

8               (2) requiring ballast water that originated in a foreign port to be discharged at sea and  
9 replaced with ocean water before a vessel enters the waters of Alaska.

10       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the  
11 U.S. Department of Transportation; to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S.  
12 Department of Commerce; to Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; and to  
13 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
14 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.