

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 52

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/28/92
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

**1 Supporting the inshore-offshore fisheries allocation plans proposed by the North Pacific
2 Fishery Management Council.**

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

**4 WHEREAS, in June 1991, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council approved plans to
5 allocate specific percentages of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea to the
6 inshore processing sector and to the offshore processing sector; and**

7 WHEREAS the plans are being reviewed by the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

**8 WHEREAS the plans cannot be implemented until they are approved by the Secretary of
9 Commerce; and**

**10 WHEREAS the offshore processing sector, commonly known as factory trawlers, has launched
11 an extensive lobbying campaign in Washington D.C. with the goal of convincing the Secretary of
12 Commerce to reject the proposed plans to allocate between inshore and offshore processors; and**

13 WHEREAS factory trawlers practice highly wasteful fishing techniques; and

**14 WHEREAS, in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea, factory trawlers discard approximately
15 one pound of fish for every 2.5 pounds of fish utilized; and**

16 WHEREAS, in the Gulf of Alaska, the shore based catcher fleet utilizes six pounds of fish for

1 every pound of fish discarded; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in the Bering Sea, the shore based catcher fleet utilizes 34 pounds of fish for every
3 pound of fish discarded; and

4 **WHEREAS** factory trawlers harvest fishery resources that are the common property of the United
5 States, yet do not pay any royalties, bonuses, or taxes on these resources; and

6 **WHEREAS** the shore based harvesting and processing sectors pay State of Alaska, and often
7 municipal, fisheries taxes on fish landed; and

8 **WHEREAS** the taxes paid by shore based harvesters and processors help pay for fisheries
9 management, enforcement, research, and local support services; and

10 **WHEREAS** shore based processing facilities must satisfy both state and federal food processing
11 regulations in order to ensure the wholesomeness of the product and are inspected regularly while the
12 factory trawlers are not held to these same standards; and

13 **WHEREAS** federal and state laws pertaining to worker safety are enforced at shore based
14 processing facilities while working conditions aboard factory trawlers are virtually unregulated; and

15 **WHEREAS** shore based processing facilities are strictly regulated for pollutant discharge in order
16 to ensure protection of the environment while factory trawlers are subject to less strict standards and,
17 by the nature of their operations, can make illegal discharges that are less likely to be detected; and

18 **WHEREAS** the approval of the inshore and offshore fisheries allocation plans is one of the most
19 critical issues now facing the State of Alaska; and

20 **WHEREAS** the approval of the inshore and offshore fisheries allocation plans is an absolute
21 necessity for the economic stability of Alaska's coastal communities and for the economic and social
22 well-being of the thousands of people who live and work in those communities;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary of
24 Commerce to approve and implement the inshore and offshore fisheries allocation plans proposed by the
25 North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
27 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;
28 the Honorable Barbara Franklin, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable John
29 A. Knauss, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of
30 Commerce; Dr. William Fox, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service,
31 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; and to the Honorable
32 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.

1 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.