

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/18/94

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A RESOLUTION

**1 Relating to reduction of wanton waste in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea
2 fisheries.**

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

**4 WHEREAS more fish were discarded in the federally managed fisheries of the North
5 Pacific Ocean than were landed by American fishermen in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1992;
6 and**

**7 WHEREAS over 500,000,000 pounds of marine life were dumped overboard in the
8 Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, including 20,000,000 pounds of halibut, 1,000,000
9 pounds of herring, and over 20,000,000 pounds of crab; and**

**10 WHEREAS, in 1993, over 360,000 salmon were intercepted by North Pacific Ocean
11 and Bering Sea trawl fisheries; and**

**12 WHEREAS these discarded herring, crab, and salmon are State of Alaska managed
13 resources that were intercepted in offshore federal waters; and**

**14 WHEREAS these resources are the economic and cultural lifeblood for many Alaskans
15 who depend on the sea for their livelihoods and subsistence; and**

16 WHEREAS this continued wanton waste undermines any long-term management

1 strategy for sustained commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries, and places our rural
2 communities at risk; and

3 **WHEREAS** Alaska marine waters face declining wildlife populations and potential
4 endangered species listings of several marine species that depend on fish for food; and

5 **WHEREAS** minimizing the catch of undersized fish and reducing wanton waste will
6 conserve fisheries resources for present and future generations of subsistence users,
7 commercial and recreational fishermen, seafood industries, coastal communities, consumers,
8 and the nation;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the wanton waste now
10 occurring in federal fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea is of utmost
11 importance socially, economically, and ecologically; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
13 Congress to amend the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or to enact
14 other legislation, encompassing a broad range of measures to reduce wanton waste in North
15 Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries, including harvest priority incentives for clean fishing
16 practices and other management tools.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the
18 United States Department of Commerce; the Honorable Richard B. Lauber, chair of the North
19 Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
20 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
21 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.