

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59(FSH)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

**Offered: 3/2/94
Referred: Resources**

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

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 fishery resources were dumped overboard in
8 the Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, including 20,000,000 pounds of halibut,
9 1,000,000 pounds of herring, and over 20,000,000 crabs; 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; and

9 **WHEREAS** fisheries can technically or operationally reduce waste or the incidental
10 taking of nontarget species if given economic incentives or through appropriate regulatory
11 measures;

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

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

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