

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR JACKO

Introduced: 2/4/94
Referred: RES, JUD

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council comprehensive
2 rationalization plan.

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

4 WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is considering
5 the adoption of individual fishery quotas (IFQ) as a management scheme for the groundfish
6 and crab fisheries off Alaska; and

7 WHEREAS the concept of IFQs means granting individual fish harvesters or boat
8 owners ownership of a share in the harvest of these offshore groundfish and crab resources
9 to the exclusion of others currently participating in the fisheries; and

10 WHEREAS the IFQ system provides no incentives or requirements for fish harvesters
11 and boat owners to sell their catch to shore-based processors and creates incentives to deliver
12 and to sell to offshore mother ships and factory trawlers; and

13 WHEREAS the IFQ system would greatly reduce the volume of groundfish and crab
14 sold to shore-based processors; and

15 WHEREAS the shutdown or reduction of shore-based processing operations will
16 greatly reduce the contribution that shore-based processors make to state and local taxes and

1 economies and will severely and adversely affect local employment, taxes, and social and
2 economic stability in the coastal communities of Alaska; and

3 **WHEREAS** in 1992, according to the Department of Commerce and Economic
4 Development, Department of Labor, and Department of Revenue and the Alaska Seafood
5 Marketing Institute, the Alaska seafood processing industry harvested more than 5,500,000,000
6 pounds of fish; processed these fish in more than 500 large and small Alaska seafood
7 processors registered with the state; paid fish harvesters \$1,400,000,000; provided more than
8 35,000 shore-based jobs in Alaska; spent \$280,000,000 to support its activities; paid over
9 \$60,000,000 in taxes and cash benefits to the state and Alaska's coastal communities; paid
10 \$10,000,000 for salmon enhancement; paid \$700,000 in fisheries related and marine mammal
11 research and \$3,200,000 for domestic marketing of Alaska seafood products; invested
12 \$1,000,000,000 in shoreside plants; paid \$11,000,000 to local governments in municipal fish
13 taxes; and paid over \$3,000,000 in local real and property taxes; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in Western Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, and Kodiak, shore-based
15 processors pay over \$400,000,000 annually to fish harvesters; process 1,250,000,000 pounds
16 of crab, groundfish, salmon, herring, and halibut; employ over 13,000 people; pay over
17 \$90,000,000 in annual payroll; purchase \$45,000,000 in goods, services, and utilities; pay over
18 \$7,000,000 in local raw fish taxes; and in 1992 paid over \$900,000 in grants to nonprofit
19 organizations; and

20 **WHEREAS** the current open access fishing regime coupled with an onshore allocation
21 of a percentage of the groundfish and crab to the shore-based processors allows the continued
22 participation by shore-based processors in the groundfish and crab fisheries and the continued
23 contributions by shore-based processors to jobs, taxes, and social and economic stability of
24 coastal communities in the state;

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the North
26 Pacific Fishery Management Council to incorporate fairness, equal rights of access, and equity
27 to the current participants in the groundfish and crab fisheries in the comprehensive
28 rationalization plan it is now considering in order to ensure the continued participation of the
29 shore-based processors in these fisheries and the continued contributions they bring to coastal
30 communities and the State of Alaska.

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the
32 U. S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Richard Lauber, chair of the North Pacific

- 1 Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
- 2 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
- 3 the Alaska delegation in Congress.