

SJR

17

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

POSITION PAPER

Bill Number: SJR 17
Sponsor: Senator Little
Bill Title: Relating to reauthorization of the
Magnuson Fishery Conservation and
Management Act.

Department Position: Support


The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is very supportive of Senate Joint Resolution No.17. As stated in the resolution, the reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) is extremely important to Alaska. It is fully expected that the MFCMA will be reauthorized in 1994. Most of the hearings have been completed and draft legislation is expected sometime in March, 1994. For that reason, this resolution is timely.

In contrast to the many false starts and failures in Congress, the MFCMA has clearly obtained its initial objectives. The Americanization of the fishery in the EEZ and the implementation of a long term conservation program were its highest priorities. However, despite the successes and the fact that the North Pacific Fishery Council is held up as a classic success story, there are forces continually at work to undermine the very basic principals of the original Act which are critical to the survival of Alaska's fisheries. This resolution highlights some of the more obvious conflicts.

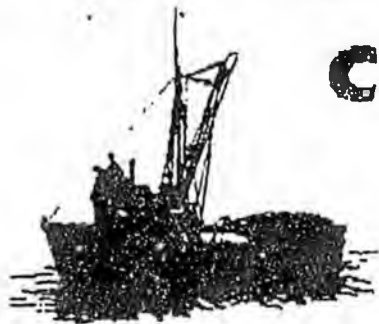
Because of the importance of this legislation and the continual battles during reauthorization to maintain provisions important to Alaska, it is critical that Alaskans stand united in support of the MFCMA. A Joint Resolution from the legislature would be most appropriate and helpful.

Commissioner's Signature

Date


2/18/94

POSITION PAPER
DEPT OF FISH & GAME



Cook Inlet Seiners Association

P.O. Box 4311
Homer, Alaska 99603
235-2656

February 8, 1994

Senator Robin Taylor
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Capitol,
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Taylor:

As you know, Cook Inlet Seiners Association (CISA), is a non-profit, Homer based fishing organization. CISA represents eighty-five percent of the seine permit holders in Lower Cook Inlet. We are writing on behalf of our membership in support of Senate Joint Resolution 17. Thank you for your support of this resolution that relates to the reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The move by Washington State congresswoman, Jolene Unseold to change the composition of the council is unacceptable. Not only could assigning additional seats to representatives from the lower 48 place the management of Alaskan fisheries into the hands of non-Alaskan, it could also increase the possibility of the appointment of non-qualified people on the council. The fishery industry is facing difficult and complex issues. As a result, it is absolutely necessary and vital that only those with expertise and experience in the field are in decision-making roles.

The present council make-up has a proven track record of sound management. At this point in time, there is no compelling reason to change its composition.

Thank you again on behalf of the lower Cook Inlet Seiners.

Sincerely,

Al Ray Carroll
Al Ray Carroll, President--Cook Inlet Seiners Association

8-LS0423NO
Utermohle
3/1/94

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS LITTLE, Zharoff, Salo, Lincoln, Leman, Taylor

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management
2 Act.

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

4 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act established a
5 fishery conservation zone, now known as the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), out to 200
6 miles off the coast of Alaska and the other coastal states to protect, conserve, and manage the
7 extensive fishery resources of the continental shelf; and

8 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act has fostered
9 rational management of formerly unregulated fisheries off Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act has successfully
11 promoted the development of an American fishing industry within the EEZ off Alaska; and

12 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act has eliminated
13 foreign fishing within the EEZ off Alaska; and

14 WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act established the
15 North Pacific Fishery Management Council as the fishery management council for the EEZ
16 fisheries off Alaska; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act since its
2 enactment in 1976 has provided that a majority of the membership of the North Pacific
3 Fishery Management Council be from Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Congress may consider proposals to increase the non-Alaskan
5 membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in order to give non-Alaskans
6 a majority of the votes on the council; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is only reasonable that a majority of the membership of the fishery
8 management council responsible for the EEZ fisheries off Alaska be Alaskans;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the reauthorization of
10 the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act and respectfully requests the
11 Congress to act expeditiously in reauthorizing the Act; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
13 the current geographic composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council be
14 retained.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
16 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary
17 of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore
18 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of
19 Representatives; the Honorable Gerry E. Studds, Chair, Committee on Merchant Marine and
20 Fisheries of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Thomas J. Manton, Chair,
21 Fisheries Management Subcommittee of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of
22 the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chair, Committee on
23 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John C. Danforth,
24 Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the U.S.
25 Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
26 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
27 Congress.



SENATOR SUZANNE LITTLE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

TO: Senator Robin Taylor, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Senator Suzanne Little

DATE: March 1, 1994

SUBJECT: CSSJR17(RES) -- relating to the re-authorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Thank you for your consideration and attention to CSSJR 17(RES).

The proposed committee substitute for SJR 17 relates to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, currently up for re-authorization in the U.S. Congress. This Act was last re-authorized in Congress for period of three years. The Act serves two purposes: 1) to make a national claim on the fisheries resources of the continental shelf in the band of marine waters from 3 to 200 miles offshore -- the exclusive economic zone (EEZ); and 2) to set up a system for managing and conserving the fisheries resources within this zone. To meet this management and conservation aim, Congress created the Regional Fishery Management Council system. Alaska is represented on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

In creating the Council system, Congress recognized the strong interest coastal states had in the fisheries resources of the EEZ off their shores. Congress charges the Councils with the primary responsibilities for determining management policy, within the EEZ, and mandates that the voting members of each of the eight regional Councils be drawn from the relevant coastal states. There is only one voting member representing the federal government on each Council.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is unique among the eight regional Councils created by Congress. This Council is the only one assigned the EEZ lying directly and entirely off the coast of a single state -- Alaska. All of the other Councils' regions of authority span multiple state coastlines. Congress recognized this uniqueness, as well as the historic participation in the fisheries off Alaska by residents of Washington and Oregon, when prescribing the voting membership of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. There are 6 votes from Alaska, 3 from Washington, 1 from Oregon, and 1 from the National Marine Fisheries Service.

January-June: STATE C
June-December: 34824 KALIF
Seldovia • Homer • Anchor Point

SPONSOR STATEMENT

928 / Fax: (907) 465-4779
262-9420 / FAX (907) 262-1881
oper Landing • Moose Pass • Seward

MEMBER
Senate Rules Committee
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Economic Task Force
Legislative Council

The makeup of the Council is one of the issues that will likely be considered as part of the re-authorization. Washington and Oregon would like more votes on the Council, and it was a significant issue during the re authorization of 1990. It is critical that Alaska maintain its voting strength, on the Council, if we are to protect the fisheries resources in our coastal waters and Alaska's interests in those resources.

The Committee Substitute by no means addresses all of the issues affecting the re-authorization of the Magnuson Act. However, it does address the core issue of importance to Alaska -- to maintain our current voting representation on the Council. This has been the highest concern of the Administration and is unanimously supported by fishing interests across the state of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of this resolution. I urge your prompt consideration of this resolution to send a clear, unanimous and expedient message to Congress that Alaska requests the current geographic representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council be retained.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SJR 17

Revision Date: _____
Title: Magnuson Fishery Consv. & Mgt. Act
Sponsor: Senator Little
Requestor: Senate Resources

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
BRU: Comm. Fish Manage and Development
Component: Fisheries Management
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1941

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
OPERATING EXPENDITURES						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTLA						
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 0

POSITIONS

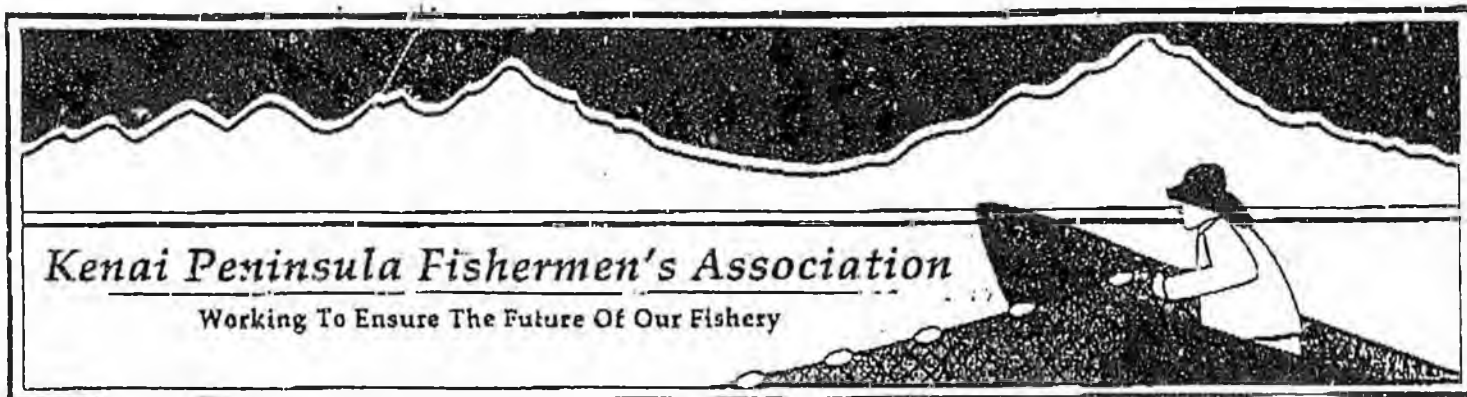
	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared By: Geron Bruce
Division: Commissioner's Office
Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-6143
Date: 2/18/94
Date: 2/18/94

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For further distrib _____ legislative Office



34824 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite E • Soldotna • Alaska • 99669 • (907) 262-2492

February 6, 1994

Senator Suzanne Little
State Capitol, Room # 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Sent By FAX Transmission

Dear Senator Little:

Subject: SJR 17 and HJR 17

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA) is a group of over 400 commercial salmon fishermen in the Cook Inlet area.

KPFA strongly supports the reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. We also support the current geographic composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The majority of the membership of the council responsible for the high seas fisheries off Alaska should rightfully be Alaskans.

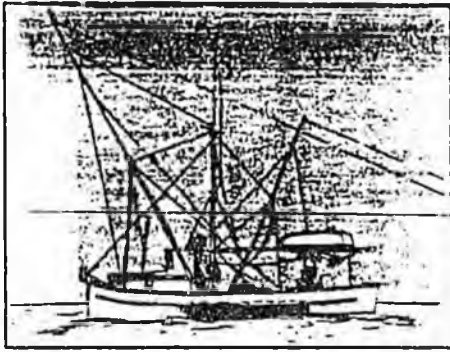
Thank you for introducing this resolution, Senator Little!

Sincerely,

Ken Coleman

Ken Coleman
President

cc: Senator Frank Murkowski
Senator Ted Stevens
Representative Don Young
United Fishermen of Alaska



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

March 10, 1993

Senator Suzanne Little
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Little:

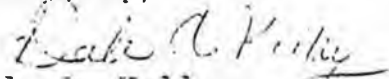
First of all I want to thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 17, relating to the reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA), representing fishermen from Alaska and the lower 48, supports the principles of sound conservation and management of Alaska's fishery resources and the current composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

As you may know, Washington state Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld is interested in changing the composition of the Council, which, in turn, will disadvantage Alaskans. Assigning additional seats for the lower 48 representatives could amplify many of our existing management dilemmas by giving a relatively small number of vessel owners the power to determine the fate of thousands of fishermen, crew and associated businesses who currently make their living in Alaska's fisheries. As for non-industry representation, ATA believes great care should be taken to ensure that those making policy decisions regarding fisheries management bring the necessary expertise to the Council forum.

The present Council make-up has been more than adequate to address the concerns and issues of the many interests. The Council's record of management action is something we can all be proud of.

ATA supports your resolution and hope that it will be expedited through the Senate and House. Time is of the essence for Alaska to inform Congress of its position.

Sincerely,


Dale A. Kelley
Executive Director

cc: Representative Mike Navarre



North Pacific Fisheries Association, Inc.

HEADQUARTERS:

BOX 796 • HOMER ALASKA 99603

Senator Robin Taylor
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1132

February 7th, 1994

Dear Senator Taylor,

NPFA is in full support of SJR 17. This resolution demonstrates Alaska's understanding of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council make-up and the importance of regional representation.

If Alaska is to maintain and strengthen its independence of economic diversity, it can not continue to operate as a "resource colony" for the rest of the country. Alaska is in the best position to conserve and protect these resources, for it is in our management strategies of today that we safeguard our economic viability for tomorrow.

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is the most progressive and successful of the eight regional councils. It has initiated management strategies that offer long term prosperity to the isolated and disadvantaged communities shoreside to such bountiful resources. It has paved the way for conservation by slowing down the harvest in derby style fisheries and clearly moved with a futuristic approach toward management.

It is for these reasons that we support SJR 17 and compliment the Senate in recognizing the great importance of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to the State of Alaska. Thank-you for your considerations on these comments.

Sincerely,

Andrew Scalzi
NPFA / pres

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Phone (907) 772-9323 Voice and Fax

February 11, 1994

Senator Suzanne Little
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Little,

We would like to thank you for sponsoring SJR 17, relating to the reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. We fully support this resolution and feel it is essential that the State of Alaska send a strong message to Congress to maintain the current geographic composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

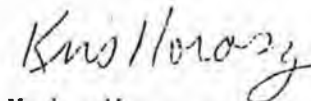
We have been active at the Council process since its inception. We believe the present composition of the NPFMC has been successful in representing and addressing the concerns and interests of the wide array of people who are involved in North Pacific fisheries. One of the criticism that has been levelled specifically at the NPFMC is that the Alaska majority controls the Council process. However, if one examines the voting record of the NPFMC, it is obvious that this is certainly not the case.

Retention of the current geographical composition of the NPFMC is extremely important to us. We are strong believers that it is imperative that the decision makers on the NPFMC are readily accountable to the fishermen and communities that are most affected.

The NPFMC has many fine accomplishments to its credit. The Council prohibited roe stripping, established the nation's first comprehensive domestic observer program, and has maintained the 2 million ton cap on Bering Sea harvests.

We support SJR 17 and hope that it will be fully embraced by both the Senate and House.

Sincerely,



Kris Norosz
Director



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 329 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389
--(907)-283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306--

February 7, 1994

SENT BY TELEFAX

Senator Suzanne Little
(Sponsor) SJR17
State Capitol, Room#7
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SUBJECT: SJR17/HJR17

Dear Senator Little,

United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) would like to express our strong support for SJR17/HJR17. This legislation supports the retention of the current Alaskan majority on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC).

United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents the 585 salmon drift permit holders in Upper Cook Inlet. Some 350 permit holders are current members of our association. UCIDA is also active at the state and federal levels as a member of the Executive Committee of United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA).

Of all the Management Councils established by Congress under the Magnuson Act, NPFMC has clearly developed and sustained the largest conservation ethic. This is due, in large part, to the "Alaskan majority" since they represent thousands of Alaskan vessel owners and the many Alaskan coastal communities that have a vested interest in the long viability of the fisheries in the North Pacific.

We urge expeditious action on this legislation as it will reinforce similar positions already taken by our Congressional delegations as they work toward the reauthorization of the Magnuson Act.

Sincerely
Theo Matthews
Theo Matthews
Administrative Assistant

cc Senator Stevens
Representative Young

Senator Murkowski
UFA