

HJR

24

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Affected Agency: _____
 Title: Relating to reduction of vanton waste in North Pacific
Ocean and Bering Sea Fisheries. BRU: _____
 Sponsor: Representative Moses Components: _____
 Requestor: House Special Committee on Fisheries _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

OPERATING	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 2000	FY 2001
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0					

CAPITAL	0					
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REVENUE	0					
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FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

General Fund						
Federal Fund						
Other						
TOTAL	0					

POSITIONS:

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

Estimated FY 95 Impact: 0

ANALYSIS: (ATTACH A SEPARATE PAGE IF NECESSARY)

Prepared By: Cheryl Sutton, Legislative Aide Date: 2/7/95
 Division: Legislative/House Rules Committee Phone: 465-6848

Approved By:  Date: 2/7/95
 Agency: House of Representatives

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REQUESTOR
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
AGENCY (IES)

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/29/95

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 5-5-95

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24(FSH)
 Relating to reduction of wanton waste in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries.

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- same title
- new title
- House Bill
- same title
- technical change
- new: SCR^o _____

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Deane</i>	✓				
<i>Chris L. Taylor</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
CHAIR: <i>J. Drew A. Lewis</i>	✓				

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department Date Zero Fiscal

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department Date Zero Fiscal

ADF+C	4/8	✓	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Carl E. Moses

CHAIRMAN
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIRMAN
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES



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SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Joint Resolution 24

Relating to reduction of wanton waste in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries

House Joint Resolution 24 addresses an issue of immediate concern to Alaska and its commercial fishing industry. In an August 1994 report prepared for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game by Pacific Associates, the wanton waste of fishery resources in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea was documented.

HJR 24 complements the efforts of Alaska's congressional delegation. Senator Frank Murkowski proposed a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly calling on all the nations of the world to address the issue of commercial bycatch and discards in 1995. The resolution puts the United Nations on record as believing the issue warrants serious attention in the international community and that a continued response is needed to ensure long-term sustainable development of fisheries.

Discards of either dead or live fishery resources occur in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries for three basic reasons: economics, management policies and fishing practices. Discards sometimes occur because of the economic loss associated with processing the entire harvest. When species of little or no value are harvested along with the target species, there is no real economic incentive to discourage discarding.

Management induced discards occur for several reasons. There are federal regulations that prohibit fishermen utilizing certain gear types from retaining certain species. The fact that the fish may be dead or alive does not matter. This is called *prohibited species* catch. Groundfish fisheries in the North Pacific are managed by an open-access method with species quotas. Fishermen are interested in targeting their particular species as rigorously as possible before the allotted quota is reached. This method also lends itself to waste through discards of non-target species.

Fishing practices' discards may be the result of direct action by fishermen or through a combination of management requirements and fishing practices. Some fishermen "prospect" for a closed-fishery species while targeting another species. Because they will harvest prohibited species while doing this, there is mortality associated with the non-targeted species. Technical modifications to gear to make it "legal" (e.g., modifying on-bottom trawl gear to mid-water trawl) can cause increased bycatch mortality.

HJR 24 respectfully urges Congress to either amend the Magnuson Fishery Management and Conservation Act, or to enact other legislation, to address the waste of fishery resources. It also recommends harvest priority incentives for clean fishing practices to reduce wanton waste in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean fisheries.

in some commercial fisheries significant numbers of adult fish or fish parts which could be processed for human consumption, but which are required to be discarded for various fisheries management purposes, or which are considered unsuitable for a particular market of immediate interest to the fishing vessel operator.

(4) Fish currently harvested but discarded without processing include significant numbers of fish of species for which there is presently no viable market, but which, if they remained unharvested, could form the basis for future fisheries as new markets and processing techniques are developed.

(5) There is cause for concern that current levels of mortalities among non-target fish species may have adverse environmental consequences.

(6) High discard levels, if concentrated geographically, may cause damage to the productivity of the resources using the ocean bottom and near-bottom areas.

(7) The current level of scientific knowledge is insufficient to determine if adverse impacts may result from the removal of nutrients presently returned to the ocean through the discard of non-target fish species and of unutilized portions of targeted species.

(8) It is in the national interest both environmentally and economically to minimize mortalities among non-target species taken incidentally to the various directed fisheries.

(9) It is in the national interest to encourage the utilization where practicable of all parts of fish harvested in directed fisheries for the species.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO MAGNUSON ACT.

The Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et. seq.) is amended--

(1) in subsection 1801(b)(4) by inserting "in a non-wasteful manner and" after "maintain,";

(2) in subsection 1801(b)(6) by inserting "in a non-wasteful manner" after "such development";

(3) in subsection 1802(21)(B) by inserting ", including efforts to limit mortality in non-target species for the purposes of resource conservation and food production" after "ecological factor";

(4) in section 1802 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(33) The term 'non-target species' means fish caught incidentally to fishing for a particular species or group of species and which may or may not be retained aboard the fishing vessel for subsequent processing and/or sale.";

(5) in section 1851(a)(1) by adding "and encourage the minimization of mortalities among non-target species" after "prevent overfishing";

(6) in section 1851(a)(5) by striking the word "promote" and inserting in its place the word "consider";

(7) in section 1851(a) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(8) Conservation and management measures shall encourage the non-wasteful taking of fishery resources, including the reduction of discards of fish and fish parts, and the minimization of mortalities among non-target species.";

(8) in section 1853(a) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6) and renumbering the subsequent paragraphs accordingly; and by inserting the following new paragraphs:

"(4) assess and specify--

"(A) to the maximum extent practicable an estimate by numbers of fish or weight thereof of the extent of anticipated mortalities among non-target species taken incidentally to the fishery or fisheries for which the plan is prepared, and

"(B) to the maximum extent practicable, an estimate by numbers of fish or weight thereof of anticipated discard levels of fish and fish parts taken pursuant to the fishery, but not utilized;

"(5) contain a description of measures intended to reduce mortalities among non-target species taken incidentally to the fishery or fisheries for which the plan is prepared, and to encourage the use of target species in a manner which minimizes the discard of fish and fish parts:";
and

(9) in section 1853 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) Required Amendment of Management Plans.--Each council shall--

"(1) within one year from the date of enactment of this subsection, submit to the Secretary such amendments for each management plan under its jurisdiction as are needed to comply with subsections (a)(4) and (5)

of this section; and

"(2) thereafter submit annually to the Secretary a report identifying any changes to the estimates and descriptions required in subsection (a) (4) and (5) and in paragraph (1) of this subsection, and providing an explanation of the cause or causes of such changes."

.....
.....

Press ENTER to return to MAIN MENU:

Murkowski: U.N. Adopts Bycatch Resolution

December 20, 1994

as much as a year off the time when the full U.N. could take up the issue.

According to Murkowski, a recent report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, based in Rome, indicates that the total amount of fishery discards -- fish caught, but for various reasons not retained for processing -- is far larger than previously thought. The report estimates global discards at approximately 27 million metric tons per year. When added to global landings of 83 million metric tons, that means ocean harvesting may exceed the ocean's ability to produce a sustainable yield by ten million metric tons or more annually.

"This is extremely serious," said Murkowski. "The ocean is not limitless, and it is urgent that we undertake the research needed both to define the problem in accurate, scientific terms, and to make it possible to make better use of the resources we are harvesting. In a world where food is a major concern to millions of people and hundreds of nations, we cannot continue to harvest only the most profitable and throw away everything else. Even if only 25 percent of the discards are edible, that is still enough food to supply a quarter of the world's population with almost 50 protein-rich meals -- far in excess of what is currently available to many."

The resolution as approved notes that progress on bycatch and discard issues is already being made by a number of international organizations, but stresses that, "improvements in monitoring and assessing bycatch and discards and improving bycatch reduction techniques continue to be necessary."

The resolution puts the United Nations on record as believing the issue warrants serious attention in the international community, and that a continued response is needed to ensure long-term sustainable development of fisheries.

LEGI-SLATE Report for the 103rd Congress Wed, December 15, 1993 7:41pm (EST)
BILL TEXT Report for S.1756

As introduced in the Senate, November 20, 1993

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S.1756 As introduced in the Senate, November 20, 1993

103d CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 1756

To encourage the optimum utilization of fisheries resources, to reduce waste
in commercial fish harvesting and processing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

November 20 (legislative day, November 2), 1993

Mr. Murkowski introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To encourage the optimum utilization of fisheries resources, to reduce waste
in commercial fish harvesting and processing, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commercial Fisheries Waste Reduction Act of
1993".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that:

(1) Current commercial fisheries practices in the United States and
world wide contribute to a significant waste of edible food resources
which are harvested, but discarded without processing for human
consumption or other uses.

(2) Fish currently harvested but discarded without processing include
in some fisheries large numbers of juvenile fish which would have
significantly greater value both as an economic asset to the fishery and
to the maintenance of the species if they were allowed to reach maturity
before harvesting.

(3) Fish currently harvested but discarded without processing include

NEWS



U.S. SENATOR

FRANK MURKOWSKI

OF ALASKA

For Immediate Release
December 20, 1994

Contact: Chuck Kleeschulte or Cindi Bookout
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MURKOWSKI: U.N. APPROVES MURKOWSKI RESOLUTION; WILL ADDRESS BYCATCH ISSUES IN FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WASHINGTON -- The United Nations General Assembly has unanimously approved a United States resolution calling on all the nations of the world next year to take up the issue of commercial fisheries bycatch and discards.

The resolution, proposed by Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski, R, is designed bring international attention to the issue and build political support for ongoing efforts to address it. The resolution passed the U.N. as the body moves to wrap up its 49th General Assembly business prior to the Christmas holidays.

"This puts the issue of bycatch and discard out before the international community where it can no longer be ducked by those who would prefer to avoid talking about uncomfortable facts," said Murkowski. "We don't want to undermine the international efforts already underway, but we want the political side to realize what the conservation community already knows: this issue must be addressed head-on."

Murkowski, who is one of two delegates to the United Nations from the U.S. Congress for this 49th session of the General Assembly, presented an initial draft of the resolution to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright and asked for her rapid support during a meeting in New York Nov. 28.

Murkowski said the resolution was needed to ensure that the international community is fully aware of the bycatch and discard issue, which is of great concern to scientists around the world.

The United Nations Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development last week gave unanimous approval to the resolution calling on the international community to consider the issue of global fishery bycatch and discard during next year's fall session of the United Nations. By pressing for action in this year's session, Murkowski shaved