

SJR

22

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SJR 22

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affect Fish and Game
 Title: Research on Fisheries and Marine Mammals BRU: CFMD
in the Bering Sea Component: Fisheries Management
 Sponsor: Sen. Hoffman
 Requester: Senate Resources COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1941

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

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: Bob Clast
 Division: CFMD
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank
 Agency: Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4210
 Date: 4/17/95
 Date: 4.17.95

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For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

POSITION PAPER

Bill No. SJR 22

Sponsor: Sen. Hoffman

Division: Commercial Fisheries Management and Development

Bill Title: Research on Fisheries and Marine Mammals in the Bering Sea

Department Position: Support

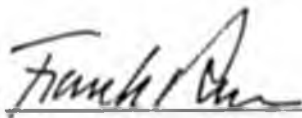
Background/Legislative Intent:

In recent years, there have been observed changes in the populations of some important Bering Sea fish and marine mammal stocks. The resolution requests Congress fund an ecosystem study of the Bering Sea in an attempt to understand the mechanisms causing the population changes.

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects:

The proposed legislation has no direct affect on the department's programs. However, funding of the recommended study could provide insights that would improve management of the Bering Seas fish and mammal populations.

Commissioner's Signature


Frank Rue

Date

4.17.95

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 4/7/95

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3 4-20-95
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4-29-95

Resources Committee considered SJR 22

Requesting research on fisheries and marine mammals in the Bering Sea.

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS SJR 22 (RES)
- 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 title
 new: SCR#

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Chris Taylor</i>	✓				
<i> </i>	✓				
<i> </i>	✓				
<i> </i>	✓				
CHAIR: <i>Loren A. Hansen</i>	✓				

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
DF+G	4/17	✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*Include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR HOFFMAN

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting research on fisheries and marine mammals in the Bering Sea.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the Bering Sea is one of the most productive fishing areas in the world;
4 **and**

5 **WHEREAS** the harvest of fisheries resources in the Bering Sea totaled 4,740,000,000
6 pounds in 1993 and 4,600,000,000 pounds in 1994; **and**

7 **WHEREAS** the harvest of fisheries resources in the Bering Sea was worth
8 \$843,000,000 to commercial fishermen in 1993 and \$893,000,000 to commercial fishermen
9 in 1994; **and**

10 **WHEREAS** fish and marine mammals from the Bering Sea are a principal source of
11 subsistence foods for the communities of western Alaska; **and**

12 **WHEREAS** the abundance of northern sea lions has declined by 70 percent since
13 1959; **and**

14 **WHEREAS** the productivity of northern fur seals on the Pribilof Islands has declined
15 significantly since 1960; **and**

16 **WHEREAS** the abundance of shellfish in the Bering Sea has declined precipitously
17 in recent years resulting in a closure of the Bristol Bay red King crab fishery in 1994 and in

1 reduction in the abundance of Tanner crab to less than a third of 1991 population levels; and
2 **WHEREAS** the biomass of pollock in the Aleutian Basin and western Bering Sea has
3 declined substantially in recent years due to overfishing and continues to decline despite a
4 closure of pollock fishing in the "Donut Hole" area since 1992; and

5 **WHEREAS** certain western Alaska chum salmon stocks have declined during the last
6 five years in spite of a five-fold increase in the total abundance of salmon in western Alaska
7 since the early 1970s; and

8 **WHEREAS** the biomass of arrowtooth flounder and other flatfish has increased
9 significantly (up to a ten-fold increase for some species) in the eastern Bering Sea since the
10 early 1970s;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
12 Congress to provide funding to the appropriate federal agencies and institutions to conduct
13 studies of the Bering Sea ecosystem to discover the causes of and to make recommendations
14 for addressing the dramatic changes occurring in the abundance of fish and marine mammals
15 in the Bering Sea; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
17 the Congress direct the National Marine Fisheries Service to work with federal and state
18 agencies, and institutions whether public or private, to ensure that efforts are not duplicated
19 and studies are not redundant in addressing this important issue.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
21 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker
22 of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Bob Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S.
23 Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
24 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
25 Congress.



Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

MEMO

Interim:
716 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage AK 99501-2133

TO: George Utermohle, Attorney
Legal Services
via fax: 2029 2 pages

FROM: Annette E. Kreitzer, Aide to
Senate Resources Committee

DATE: April 28, 1995

RE: Final CS for SJR 22, Fish and Marine Mammal Research

Please draft a FINAL Resources Committee Committee Substitute for SJR 22 incorporating the attached amendment.

Please deliver the final CS to Senator Leman's office (Room 115). There were no further changes.

1

4/28/95

OFFERED IN THE SENATE:

AMENDMENT to SJR 22

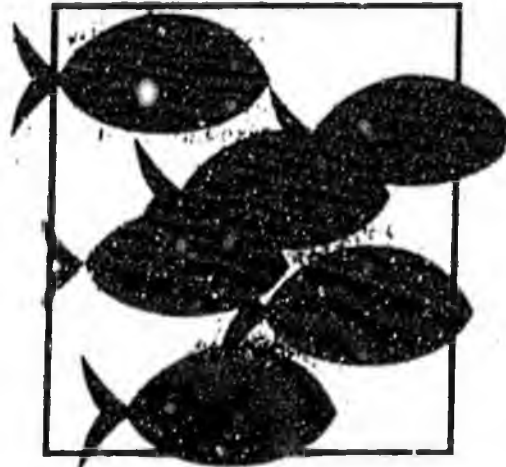
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that Congress direct the National Marine Fisheries Service to work with federal and state agencies, and institutions whether private or public to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and studies are not redundant in addressing this important issue.

ALASKA'S COASTAL COMMUNITIES AT RISK?

The North Pacific, once considered inexhaustible, is at risk. The ecosystem is showing clear signs of stress in declines of regional marine mammal and bird populations, especially those that depend on commercially important fish for food. In some areas of the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, king crab, opilio and bairdi tanner crab, shrimp, pollock, pacific ocean perch, halibut and greenland turbot are also in decline, resulting in reduced fishing time or complete fishery closures.

Overfishing, unselective catch of hundreds of millions of pounds of fish as bycatch, waste, and government mismanagement are threatening the ocean. Fisheries and ecosystems that have sustained coastal communities for generations are at risk. We don't want what has happened with the New England fisheries crisis to happen here.

You can help! Senator Ted Stevens and Representative Don Young can make a difference — but *only if they hear from you*. Senator Stevens and Representative Young chair the committees in Congress responsible for reforming the Magnuson Act, our nation's



**Marine Fish
Conservation Network**

primary fisheries law. But time is short and they need to hear from you today!

Urge them to make our fisheries and oceans healthy and productive by voting to:

- Clearly establish conservation over economics as the top priority of the Act by determining fishing levels based on sound management practices, not short-term economic factors or profits;
- Stop the needless bycatch and waste caused by indiscriminate fishing practices;
- Reform Fishery Management Councils to make them responsive to the public interest, not big business interests; and
- Protect habitat essential to all life stages of fish from destructive development activities.

Coastal communities and cultures, tens of thousands of jobs, a source of recreation for millions, and the health of the oceans depend upon it.

**CALL OR FAX SENATOR STEVENS TODAY AT 202/224-3004; 202/224-2354 (fax)
AND REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG AT 202/225-5765; 202/225-0425 (fax)**

ALASKA MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK:

Alaska Marine Conservation Council • City of St. Paul/Bering Sea Coalition • Greenpeace
Kodiak Conservation Network • North Pacific Fisheries Protection Association • Trustees for Alaska



Senator Lyman F. Hoffman

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 • (907) 465-4453

District I

Adak
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Akiak
Akutan
Aleknagik
Amchitka
Atka
Atmautluak
Attu
Belkofski
Bethel
Chefornak
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Cold Bay
Dillingham
Dutch Harbor
Eek
Egegik
Ekwok
False Pass
Goodnews Bay
Iglood
Iliamna
Ivanof Bay
Kasigluk
King Cove
King Salmon
Kipnuk
Kokhanok
Kokhanok Bay
Koliganek
Kongiganak
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Levelock
Manokotak
Naknek
Napaklak
Napaaktak
Nelson Lagoon
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nikolski
Nondalton
Nunapituk
Oscarville
Pedro Bay
Perryville
Pilot Point
Platinum
Port Alsworth
Port Heiden
Port Moller
Portage Creek
Quinhagak
Saint George Island
Saint Paul Island
Sand Point
Sieremva
South Naknek
Squaw Harbor
Togiak
Tuntutuliak
Twin Hills
Ugashik
Unalaska
Unga

Sponsor Statement

Senate Joint Resolution No. 22

Before the Senate Resources Committee
April 26, 1995

This Senate Joint Resolution requests Congress to provide funding for the appropriate agencies to conduct studies of the Bering Sea ecosystem. These studies are intended to seek the causes of the dramatic declines in the Bering Sea fish and marine mammal populations. SJR 22 also asks that recommendations be made to resolve these population changes.

Bering Sea fish and marine mammals are the principal source of subsistence food for us in Southwestern Alaska. The Bering Sea is one of the most productive fishing areas in the world. The harvest of fisheries resources in the Bering Sea totaled 4,600,000,000 pounds in 1994, which were worth \$893,000,000 to commercial fishermen. However, the numbers of these fish and marine mammal resources have been sinking significantly for the past three decades.

The biomass of Aleutian Basin and western Bering Sea pollack has deteriorated substantially, which may be due to over-fishing. The pollack biomass continues to fall despite a closure of pollack fishing in the "Donut Hole" area since 1992. In recent years, the abundance of Bering Sea shellfish has precipitously declined, resulting in the 1994 closure of the Bristol Bay red King crab fishery. Currently, the Tanner crab population is less than a third of the 1991 population levels. In the last five years, certain western Alaska chum stocks have collapsed despite a five-fold increase in the total abundance of salmon

since the early 1970's. Additionally, the population of northern sea lions has gone down by 70 percent since 1959, and the productivity of Pribilof Island northern fur seal has dropped since 1960.

We need to evaluate the Bering Sea ecosystem and pinpoint the cause of the deterioration in fisheries and marine mammal populations. We can't afford to wait until our fisheries are closed because the sea lion is placed on the endangered species list. My sponsorship of SJR 22 is an effort to address the declines in the Bering Sea marine resources so that our subsistence lifestyle and commercial fishing economy will be preserved.