SCOMM

138:21

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Rep. John Harris
Rep. Peggy Wilson
Rep. Jim Elkins
Rep. Mary Kapsner
Rep. Woodie Salmon

State Capitol, Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Co-Chairs
Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
(907) 465-2487 FAX 465-4956
Rep. Bill Thomas
(907) 465-3732 FAX 465-2652

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SPONSOR STATEMENT
HJR 15
"Relating to open ocean aquaculture in the federal exclusive economic zone"

Open Ocean Aquaculture (OOA) is a concept that concerns many Americans who are involved in the seafood business and whose communities depend on the economic strength of the commercial fishing industry. This new method of seafood production has been under development for a number of years, and there is pending federal legislation drafted by the Department of Commerce that would establish a program allowing OOA in federal waters.

In response to many environmental, economic and social concerns, Alaska enacted legislation in 1990 that prohibits finfish farming in state waters. This prohibition has enabled the Alaska fishing industry to differentiate itself in the global seafood market. Our name is associated with natural, healthy and safe seafood that has inherent quality because it is not artificially raised with antibiotics, artificial coloring and industrial fish food. Alaska's relative market share of seafood has diminished with the massive increases in farmed fish production, but our products have excellent name recognition and often occupy high value niches in the market. Our commitment to wild fisheries is beginning to pay dividends to our industry and the state, as some prices that dipped to severely low levels are showing strong signs of recovery.

HJR 15 recognizes that the Alaska Legislature is committed to ensuring the biological and economic health of our fisheries and the social and economic well-being of our communities. It requests that the U.S. Congress require any federal proposal to authorize OOA to undergo a legislative environmental impact statement. It also asks that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council be involved in any proposals regarding OOA. This is critical in that the Council was established to regulate the fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. It is essential that the Council, which generally has so well managed Alaska's federal fisheries, be a part of any discussion of OOA proposals.

Representative_Gabrielle_LeDoux@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

24-LS0631\F
Utermohle
3/8/05

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

A RESOLUTION

Relating to open ocean aquaculture in the federal exclusive economic zone.

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

WHEREAS Alaska wild fish stocks are healthy and sustainable, in large part due to a strong gene pool and Alaska's history of sound fisheries management, clean water, and habitat protection; and

WHEREAS Alaska commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries are managed to achieve the state's constitutional mandate of sustained yield; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska enacted legislation in 1990 to prohibit finfish farming in state waters; and

WHEREAS there are numerous outstanding issues and concerns regarding the social, economic, health, and environmental consequences of farmed fish, both in state and federal waters; and

WHEREAS open net cage fish farming poses persistent risks to the health of the marine resources of Alaska; and

WHEREAS there are patents pending to cultivate and introduce genetically modified fish into open waters which will pose a direct threat to wild stock fisheries; and

WHEREAS salmon farming has had severe economic impacts on coastal communities in Alaska as demonstrated by significantly lower prices for wild salmon fisheries products; and

WHEREAS Alaska coastal communities and fishing families rely on the health of wild fish stocks for a strong economy; and

WHEREAS global markets increasingly demand natural seafood products harvested sustainably from a clean environment; and

WHEREAS the seafood industry in Alaska has developed strong name recognition in the marketplace for wild, natural, and healthy seafood products; and

WHEREAS successful seafood marketing depends on product differentiation and Alaska's untarnished name is its greatest asset in the global market; and

WHEREAS the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is promoting legislation to permit open ocean aquaculture in federal waters from three to 200 miles offshore of the states; and

WHEREAS the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides for input from fishermen and coastal communities through regional fishery management councils; and

WHEREAS the proponents of federal open ocean aquaculture and members of the ocean aquaculture industry have not satisfactorily demonstrated that this activity will not be detrimental to the ocean resources and to the economy of Alaska coastal communities; and

WHEREAS Governor Frank H. Murkowski has proposed a five-year moratorium on all permitting, leasing, or development of ocean pen-reared shellfish and finfish in the federal exclusive economic zone off Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature is committed to ensuring that open ocean aquaculture does no harm to ecosystem integrity, to existing wild fisheries, or to the social and economic well-being of Alaska coastal communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges Congress to prohibit the issuance of any license to permit an aquaculture facility that imports, exports, possesses, cultivates, sells or otherwise handles genetically modified fish in the federal exclusive economic zone or has access to open waters; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the regional

fishery management councils under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and their involvement in any d scussions or proposals regarding open ocean aquaculture proposals in federal waters; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Congress to require any federal proposal to authorize open ocean aquaculture in the federal exclusive economic zone to undergo a legislative environmental impact statement, as required by law.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Ted Stevens, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate and member of the Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Carlos Gutierrez, United States Secretary of Commerce; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 8, 2005

Representative Bill Thomas, Co-Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Thomas,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) represents thirty-one Alaska commercial fishing groups and hundreds of individual fishermen, crew members and related businesses. UFA supports House Joint Resolution 15 as a clear statement to congress from the State of Alaska regarding the potential environmental and economic threat of fish farms in federal waters.

UFA shares the position in HJR 15, that any management of any offshore aquaculture be under the authority of the regional fishery management councils. UFA also supports the requirement of a legislative environmental impact statement on any federal legislation that would allow fish farms in the Exclusive Economic Zone off U.S. Waters.

Respectfully,

Mark D. Vinsel
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Draggers Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum
Fishing Vessel Owners Association • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
North Pacific Fisheries Association • North Pacific Scallop Cooperative • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Old Harbor Fishermen's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Seiners Marketing Association
Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance •Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association • Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

6-FYI-

Rep. John Harris
Rep. Peggy Wilson
Rep. Jim Elkins
Rep. Mary Kapsner
Rep. Woodie Salmon

State Capitol, Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Co-Chairs
Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
(907) 465-2487 FAX 465-4956
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HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 7, 2005

To: Senator John Cowdery, Chair
Senate Rules Committee

From: Representative Bill Thomas, Co-Chair
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries

Re: Hearing Request CSHJR 15(RES)

The House Special Committee on Fisheries hereby requests that the Senate Rules Committee schedule HJR 15, relating to open ocean aquaculture in the federal exclusive economic zone, for a Senate floor vote at your earliest convenience. Senator Gary Stevens has committed to speaking to this resolution.

Attached please find the pertinent supporting materials. If you have any questions, please contact Ian Fisk in Rep. Thomas' office at 465-6867.

Representative_Gabrielle_LeDoux@legis.state.ak.us
Representative_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

6-L

Suzanne Hancock

From: Renee Limoge
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2005 5:39 PM
Subject: Legislature Passes Resolution Regarding Fish Farming in Federal Waters
Attachments: 04-12-05Thomasd.doc

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 12, 2005
Thomas (907) 465-3732

CONTACT: Representative Bill

Legislature Passes Resolution Regarding Fish Farming in Federal Waters

(JUNEAU) – The Alaska State Legislature unanimously passed the Committee Substitute for HJR 15, a resolution that states the Alaskan Legislature's opposition to Open Ocean Aquaculture (OOA) in federal waters.

The resolution reaffirms the Legislature's commitment to ensuring the biological and economic health of Alaska's fisheries, as well as the social and economic well-being of our state's communities. Further, it requests that Congress require any federal proposal to authorize Open Ocean Aquaculture to undergo a legislative environmental impact statement and asks that Congress ban the introduction of genetically modified fish to the Exclusive Economic Zone.

House Special Committee on Fisheries Co-Chair Bill Thomas (R-Haines) said of the resolution, "Today, we sent a clear message to those in Washington who are pushing the idea of aquaculture in federal waters. The global fish farming industry is bad news for Alaska and for fishermen nationwide. In Alaska, we produce seafood the way it should be done, and we will fight for the well-being of our industry and our communities."

"It would be irresponsible for us to ignore the economic, social, and environmental concerns that caused us to ban finfish farming in state waters in 1990," said Fisheries Co-Chair Gabrielle LeDoux (R-Kodiak). "Open Ocean Aquaculture goes even further and could create even greater dangers to our fisheries."

HJR 15 also requests that Regional Fisheries Management Councils be granted authority over any proposals regarding OOA.

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HJR 15
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Fish and Game

Title: Relating to Open Ocean Aquaculture in the Federal Exclusive Economic
RDU
Component

Sponsor: House Special Committee on Fisheries
Requester: House Special Committee on Fisheries
Component No.

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Passage of this legislation would have no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Sarah Gilbertson
Phone 465-6137
Division: Legislative Liaison
Date/Time 3/8/05 4:54 PM

Approved by: Acting Commissioner Wayne Regelin
Date 3/8/2005
Agency: Alaska Department of Fish & Game

(Revised 12/2003 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HJR 15
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Legislature
Title: Relating to open ocean acquaculture in the federal exclusive economic zone.
BRU: Legislative Council
Component: Session Expenses
Sponsor: House Special Committee on Fisheries
Requestor: House Special Committee on Fisheries
Component No. 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
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**
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director
Phone 465-6626
Division: Administrative Services
Date/Time 3/7/05 1:34 PM
Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Date 3/7/2005
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

(Revised 9/2001 OMB)