

SCR

29

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON, CHAIR

SENATOR ALBERT KOOKESH
SENATOR JOE THOMAS
SENATOR HOLLIS FRENCH
SENATOR LINDA MENARD



ALASKA STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
907) 465-3877
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SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TO: All Committee Members
FROM: Senator Donald Olson
RE: Committee Agenda
LOCATION: Beltz Rom 105 (TSB)
DATE/TIME: Thursday March 11 - 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Bills Previously Heard / Scheduled

- 1. Senate Joint Resolution 29**
Recommending Congress Create Four Native Alaskan / Tribal
Representative Seats on the N. Pacific Mgmt Council

3-11-10

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

Adopted Unanimously

26-LS1568R
Kane
3/10/10

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29(CRA)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the Alaska Congressional delegation to introduce and seek passage of an**
2 **amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to**
3 **create four new voting seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to be**
4 **filled by appointment of members of federally recognized tribes or Alaska Native**
5 **organizations who are not employed by a community development quota program or**
6 **other industrial or commercial fishing interest.**

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

8 **WHEREAS** thousands of individuals and families in the Alaska Native community
9 have a vested interest in and are dependent on the success of the state's diverse fisheries,
10 especially the salmon fisheries; and

11 **WHEREAS** Native individuals and families have participated in traditional harvesting
12 of Alaska's fisheries for millennia; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in contemporary times, Alaska Natives have participated in the state's
14 commercial fisheries with skill, determination, and economic motivation at a level that

1 matches any user group in the industry; and

2 **WHEREAS**, through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management
3 Act and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska and the United
4 States of America provide management oversight, regulatory control, and policy development
5 affecting the state's offshore fisheries; and

6 **WHEREAS** the composition of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
7 dominated by state and industry voices that do not advocate or represent the subsistence needs
8 of Alaska's rural tribal peoples; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state's federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native organizations
10 need to be engaged in the management of the salmon stocks and ecosystems of the state, for it
11 is on those stocks and ecosystems that the people depend for subsistence and, in some cases,
12 for their economic livelihood; and

13 **WHEREAS** the discretionary powers of the governor to make recommendations for
14 appointment to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council do not provide for consistent
15 participation by members of federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native organizations; and

16 **WHEREAS** the establishment of tribally designated voting seats filled by
17 representatives without ties to community development quota programs or other industrial or
18 commercial fishing interest would serve to ensure fairness and subdue potential conflicts;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska
20 Congressional delegation to introduce and seek passage of an amendment to the Magnuson-
21 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to create four new voting seats on the
22 North Pacific Fishery Management Council to be filled by appointment of members,
23 recommended by the governor, of federally recognized tribes in Alaska or Alaska Native
24 organizations who are not employed by a community development quota program or other
25 industrial or commercial fishing interest.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
27 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
28 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MGT. COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL: Eleven voting members, four non-voting.

Advisory Panel – 20 to 23 members from any interest area within fisheries; appointed by states' governors by voting member ratio.

Scientific & Statistical Committee

ELEVEN VOTING MEMBERS:

- 6 Alaska (five recommended by AK governor to U.S. Commerce Secretary for appointment; one is automatically the F & G Commissioner)
- 3 Washington (one must be the F&G Commissioner)
- 1 Oregon (must be Oregon's F&G Commissioner)
- 1 AK Regional Director of National Marine Fisheries Svc.

FOUR NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

- 1 U.S. Coast Guard
- 1 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- 1 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 1 U.S. State Department

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



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**SJR 29 – Adding Four Native Voting Seats to
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council**

Version 26-LS1568/A, February 26, 2010

STAFF: Tim Benintendi, 465-4989

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SJR 29 would request of the Alaska Congressional delegation that the Magnuson-Stevens Act be opened for consideration of amending the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC). The resolution urges creation of four new voting seats which would be filled with appointees, recommended by the governor, from federally-recognized tribes in Alaska and/or Alaska Native Organizations. It further proposes that these individuals not be employed by a community development quota program, or other industrial or commercial fishing interests.

Many constituent Native fishermen from Western and Northwestern Alaska, and the resource development groups which support them, feel that their voices are not being heard on the NPFMC, and that an expanded Council with four new Native voting seats will accommodate that voice.

Issues such as failed king salmon runs on the Lower Yukon River and ongoing, unresolved by-catch losses have left this constituency with little recourse other than raising their profile and seeking remedial actions at this level of the regulatory process.

SJR 29 is supported, among others, by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Assn., Alaska Inter Tribal Council, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Kawerak, Inc., Assn. of Village Council Presidents, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn., the Northwest Arctic Borough, and the Kotzebue Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

ENTITIES SUPPORTING SJR 29
VOTING SEATS FOR TRIBES ON THE NPFMC

SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

ALASKA INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL

ALASKA VILLAGE INITIATIVES

ALASKA MARINE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION*

YUKON DELTA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

KAWERAK, INC.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF UNALAKLEET

WESTERN INTERIOR RAC***

EASTERN INTERIOR RAC***

SEWARD PENINSULA RAC***

ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS**

BERING SEA FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION***

KOTZEBUE FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH***

UNITED SOUTH & EASTERN TRIBES, INC

*CDQ group

**Verbal commitment

***Took action/pending

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SJR29
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SJR29-LEG-COU-3-9-10 Dept. Affected: Legislature
 Title "Requesting the Alaska Congressional delegation to RDU Legislative Council
 introduce and seek passage of an amendment..." Component Council and Subcommittees
 Sponsor Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
 Requester Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee Component Number 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
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	0.0

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

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

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
 Division Legislative Affairs Agency
 Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director
 Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626
 Date/Time 3/9/10 9:42 AM
 Date 3/9/2010



Bering Mission Donors: Elm Campbell Golovin Kupik Nana Sami Michael Savonoga Stokolski Stobson Teller Ukiakuta Wale White Mountain

December 9, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Begich
144 Russell Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Don Young
2111 Rayburn Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Murkowski and Begich and Congressman Young:


As you are aware, the level of interest and participation of late by western Alaskan tribal groups in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process has increased dramatically, in large part due to potential subsistence conflicts that may occur in the prosecution of federal fisheries. These groups have worked hard to increase their presence in the federal process - to make their voices heard and to meaningfully participate.

While we may not always fully agree on the approach to federal management, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC) certainly values the input, opinions and positions of western Alaska tribal organizations as we have overlapping constituencies.

Therefore, NSEDCC wishes to voice its support for expansion of council seats to include representation of tribes from western Alaska. The tribes, representing people who have made a living from the Bering Sea for thousands of years, should have direct representation on the Council to ensure their needs and concerns are fully considered in our fishery management process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,


Janis Ivanoff
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Art Ivanoff

420 L Street Suite 310 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 (907) 274-2248 Fax: (907) 274-2249



KAWERAK, INC. • P.O. Box 948 • Nome, AK 99762

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IERVING THE
VILLAGES OF:
IERVING MISSION
OUNCIL
IOMEDE
ELIM
SAMBELL
SOLOVIN
SING ISLAND
COYUK
MARY'S IGLOO
IOME
SAYCONGA
SHAKTOOLIK
SHISHMAREF
SOLOMON
STEBBINS
ST MICHAEL
TELLER
JNALAKLEET
VALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN

March 3, 2010

Senator Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mark Begich
144 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Don Young
2111 Rayburn Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Murkowski and Begich and Congressman Young:

The Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) of Kawerak, Inc. in Nome held its annual meeting in Anchorage on February 22-23, 2010. At the meeting, the Commissioners reviewed a February 5, 2010 letter to Senator Murkowski requesting assistance in "obtaining tribal representation" on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC).

The EWC fully supports and endorses Kawerak's letter, and other Alaska Native organizations and entities requesting four tribally designated seats on the NPFMC by amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The benefit of having tribal representation on NPFMC would allow not only a voting seat, but an opportunity to be fully consulted in matters relating to western Alaska's fishery management issues.

If you have questions regarding the support, please contact me at 907/443-4380 at Kawerak, Inc. or Art Ivanoff at 907/624-3622.

Sincerely,
Kawerak, Inc.
Vera Metcalf
Vera Metcalf
Eskimo Walrus Commission

cc: Senator Olson
Myron Naneng, Association of Village Council Presidents
Julie Kitka, Alaska Federation of Natives
Art Ivanoff, Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
Loretta Bullard, Kawerak
Victor Karmun, Chair, EWC