

SCOMM

131:43

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Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement SJR 12
(Updated April 2, 2003)

Senate Joint Resolution 12, "Supporting the halibut by-catch utilization project of the Alaska Food Coalition"

This resolution comes in response to the Alaska Food Coalition's on-going efforts to help those less fortunate with much needed food assistance.

Currently, fishermen operating trawl vessels are prohibited from retaining accidentally caught halibut, and are required by federal regulation to discard halibut by-catch at sea, even dead halibut.

Kodiak processors have indicated an interest in handling and processing otherwise unused halibut by-catch for charitable purposes. The Alaska Food Coalition has established a plan, has acquired funds, and is ready to distribute the halibut by-catch to assist Alaskans in need.

This resolution will be sent to the North Pacific Fishery Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to support the issuance of a Prohibited Species Donation Permit using halibut by-catch from vessels with observers. I urge your support.

Senate District R

Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us

SPONSOR STATEMENT

MAR 10 2002



KODIAK ISLAND FOOD BANK

1944 EAST REZANOF DRIVE
KODIAK, ALASKA 99615
(907) 486-4126 FAX 486-5567

March 3, 2003

Dear Senator Stevens:

It was a real honor to be your first constituent visitor on 2/24 following your appointment to the Senate, thank you. While there in Juneau with the Alaska Food Coalition I also met with Senator Dyson and he proposed to sponsor a Legislative Resolution supporting our by-catch project. Being the Senator from where this project is originating I thought you should be aware of the proposed resolution in the event that you might desire to cosponsor. In the event that you would be interested I am forwarding some proposed wording that may be helpful toward that end. We are also looking for someone in the House if you have any ideas.

This project is being developed in response to a critical need, one that is growing ever more serious with the progressing fishing crisis now underway in Alaska. In Kodiak and certainly other coastal communities 60% of the people seeking food bank assistance are either un or underemployed workers from the fishing industry. The impact of this project is two fold as it provides labor to those now most in jeopardy (fishery workers) while providing them and others in need across the state much needed food assistance.

Alaska is undeniably blessed with remarkable resources and with these resources we are given the obligation of stewardship. This year in the GOA alone, 4,409,171 pounds of dead caught halibut will simply be dumped at sea. Clearly this is a tragedy, especially when we consider the present need for this resource. Everyone would like to see these otherwise wasted fish put to good use and we are hopeful that this project can play a small part toward that end.

To accomplish this goal our proposal will have to successfully go before and receive the approval of the North Pacific Fishery Council and NMFS. Making NMFS aware that support for this project is not only wide spread but that is also at the highest levels will be quite beneficial. A legislative resolution could go a long way toward that end.

We are very much looking forward to seeing this project mature beyond a dream and a concept to become a tangible expression of this broadly held desire to see an unutilized and presently wasted resource put to good use. Any part you can play in making that happen is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Trevor Jones,
Alaska Food Coalition Chair

FOOD BANK LETTER OF SUPPORT

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SJR 12
 (S) Publish Date: 4/4/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Supporting the halibut by-catch BRU Commissioners Office
utilization project Component Commissioners Office
 Sponsor Senator Gary Stevens
 Requester Senate Resources Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
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						
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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 (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The issues addressed in SJR 12 are under federal jurisdiction.

Prepared by: Gordy Williams, Legislative Liaison Phone 465-6143
 Division Commissioners Office Date/Time 4/1/03 5:00 p.m.
 Approved by: Gordy Williams, Legislative Liaison Date 4/1/2003
 Agency Department of Fish and Game