

House Joint Memorials

[HOUSE] JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represents:

That during the past few years the fur farming industry in the Territory of Alaska, the Territory's infant industry, through the efforts of the individual residents of the Territory, under the most trying and adverse conditions, has been built up to a point where to-day there are approximately 500 licensed fur farms with a total investment of approximately Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000.00).

That the greater majority, in fact at least ninety per cent of these fur farms, have been established and maintained by the untiring efforts of individuals with little, if any, capital, derived in nearly all cases from the individual earnings of the fur farmers:

That in most cases, in order to carry on the business and maintain their respective farms, the individuals, who constitute the greater portion of Alaska's fur farmers, are obliged to seek employment during the summer months in order to be able to maintain their fur farms: that very few of these farms are on a self-sustaining basis and that most of these farms are operated by the owners themselves, they being unable to employ assistance.

That fish constitute a considerable portion of the diet of fur bearers, but that under existing law fish taken for feeding fur bearing animals are for commercial purposes just as are fish taken for human consumption and all the limitations applicable to commercial fishing apply fully to fish taken for food of such animals:

That during the period in which commercial fishing is permitted in the waters of the Territory, the majority of the fur farmers are engaged in earning a livelihood for themselves and their families and of sufficient funds to permit them to continue with their fur farming ventures, and are unable

to secure and conserve a sufficient food supply for their animals.

WHEREFORE, your Memorialist prays that the existing law be so amended by Congress as to permit the taking of salmon for fur bearing animal feed.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

Passed the House, April 1, 1931.

Passed the Senate, April 28, 1931.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2.

TO THE PRESIDENT; AND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The Legislature of the Territory of Alaska in session assembled respectfully represents as follows:

WHEREAS, the records of the United States Customs Office at Juneau, Alaska show that during the past thirty years 158 vessels have been wrecked between Cape Spencer and Unalaska on the coast of the Territory of Alaska; that in said wrecks 51 persons lost their lives; that there was property loss and damage in said wrecks in excess of \$2,000,000.00; that the records of said Customs Office show that during the past five years 54 vessels were wrecked in said area with a loss of life of 29 persons and a property loss of more than \$500,000.00; that said records are incomplete in that they show no record of vessels registered outside the Territory of Alaska; that during the said period of five years last past a number of vessels have been wrecked in said region, including the steamship "Aleutian" in which there was a property loss in the sum of upwards of \$1,000,000; and the steamship "Golden Forest" in which there was property loss in a sum of approximately \$300,000; that your memorialist has been unable to secure records or exact data of vessels and lives lost in this area except as to vessels registered in the Territory of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Alaska and the waters south of the Aleutian Peninsula are considered by sea-faring men to be the most stormy and turbulent of any portion of the Globe, and,

WHEREAS, the said section of the North Pacific Ocean is inadequately charted and is but poorly furnished with buoys,