

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 29

TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES; THE HONORABLE JOHN FOSTER DULLES, SECRETARY OF STATE; THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS MCKAY, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND TO THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled, respectfully represents:

WHEREAS, a new and ominous threat to the fishery resources of Bristol Bay waters has appeared; and

WHEREAS, an Embassy dispatch from the United States Embassy in Tokyo, dated February 16, 1953, advises that the Japanese fishing fleet will, this year, enter Bristol Bay waters for the purpose of fishing for an expected catch of one million, one hundred thousand king crab during a five month period, extending from the last of April through September; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch further advises that a five thousand ton mother ship the "Tekei Maru," equipped with a two-line crab cannery capable of producing three hundred cases per day, together with twelve catcher boats carrying with them approximately four thousand miles of tangle net gear and twenty-five sets of trawl gear and crews of approximately four hundred and twenty-one Japanese fishermen, will enter Bristol Bay fishing grounds by the end of April, 1953 and over which the United States has no control and

WHEREAS, this fishery is in an area now being fished by American fishermen under United States Government restrictions but which will now be exploited by other nations under terms of a treaty between the United States, Canada and Japan as proposed in 1952, whereby the people of Japan agreed not to fish for salmon and halibut in the Pacific Ocean east of 175° West Longitude and for herring south of the Aleutian Islands, but are allowed to fish for bottom fish, crab and other shellfish in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of restrictions under existing provisions of the proposed treaty, the Japanese crab fishermen are allowed to use equipment, gear and methods in these water which are currently prohibited by the Japanese government in Japanese Waters; and

WHEREAS, during the 1952 fishing season the Japanese fishing fleet in the area west of the 175th meridian caught 2,102,787 salmon, of which 673,503 were red salmon, some of which were undoubtedly destined for the fisheries of the Bristol Bay; and

WHEREAS, the salmon fisheries of Alaska have become seriously depleted, and this Japanese operation threatens to exterminate the Bristol Bay crab fisheries with resultant irreparable damage to the economy and well-being of an American industry; and

WHEREAS, king crab fishing has been an established enterprise for a considerable number of years and has contributed to the national wealth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled, respectfully prays, on behalf of the people of Alaska and of the United States, that immediate and positive action be taken by the Government of the United States to investigate and prevent the threatened destruction of the salmon and crab fisheries of Western Alaska which contribute vitally to its economic well-being; that immediate steps be taken to implement the treaty by enactment of legislation providing for U. S. participation in research and management of this fishery before it becomes depleted by over-exploitation, and to protect the rights of citizens of the United States who engage in fishing in this area.

And your Memorialist further prays that the Congress of the United States or its appropriate agency take immediate steps to define Territorial waters and historic bays over which the United States may exercise jurisdiction in order to prevent entry in such waters by foreign fishing fleets.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House March 10, 1953.

Passed by the Senate March 13, 1953.