

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44

**Relating to the fishing industry; requesting a special joint Congressional committee and emergency federal support.**

**Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in Second Legislature, Second Session Assembled:**

WHEREAS the fishing industry of Alaska is in imminent danger of being crushed and eventually destroyed as its fisheries are rapidly being depleted and used beyond their capacity by the increasing number of Russian and Japanese fishing vessels and of neighboring American out-of-state fishing vessels into waters adjacent to Alaska; and

WHEREAS Alaska recognizes its fisheries are supporting an important element of United States foreign policy which seeks to aid the economic development of Japan, thus strengthening our ties of friendship with that nation; and

WHEREAS Alaskan fisheries were sadly mismanaged before statehood and are already weakened to the point of exhaustion by out-of-state exploitation, and are now forced to yield their harvest to Russian and Japanese fishing interests; and

WHEREAS the decline of Alaskan fisheries cannot serve to bolster United States foreign policy with Japan nor continue to contribute to the well-being of the people of this state; and

WHEREAS the destruction of the fishing industry will result in an enormous rate of unemployment, in the loss of a livelihood to thousands of citizens of this state who have no other trade, plunging the state into a great economic crisis; and

WHEREAS the burden of United States foreign policy and neighboring out-of-state residents fishing in Alaska falls heavily upon the shoulders of the taxpayers of this state who watch state moneys being drained and siphoned off in a desperate attempt to protect, manage, conserve, and improve the fisheries, one of the God-given natural resources that should instead be expanding and contributing to help build this fledgling state into one of the greatest in the Union; and

WHEREAS it is strongly felt by the people of Alaska that a true, realistic, and on-the-spot investigation of the fishing industry will convince the federal government that the mounting fear of Alaskans for their fishing industry is well-founded and that greater control of Japanese fishing and neighboring out-of-state fishing in waters adjacent to Alaska is essential, together with increased financial support to foster the growth of the fisheries;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in Second Legislature, Second Session assembled, that the Congress of the United States is urged to appoint a special joint Congressional committee to investigate the Alaskan fishing industry and the necessity for federal financial support; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government is urged to allocate emergency funds immediately to support intense scientific research programs in Alaska to aid the conservation and improvement of these vital fisheries; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Honorable John F. Kennedy, President of the United States; the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State; the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate; the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Clinton P. Anderson, Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; the Honorable Herbert C. Bonner, Chairman, House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee; the Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee; the Honorable Wilbur D. Mills, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee; the Honorable William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska; and the members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Passed by the Senate February 21, 1962.  
Passed by the House March 6, 1962.