



Alaska State Legislature

1967

Source:

HCSSCR 27

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Protesting the lenient disposition of the cases against the masters of the Russian fishing boats seized in Alaska territorial waters.

BE IT RESOLVED

BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Alaska fishermen have been subject to foreign exploitation for many years; and

WHEREAS territorial water boundaries have been established and extended by both the state and federal governments in order to give the Alaska fishermen the needed protection from this exploitation; and

WHEREAS if the state three-mile limit and the new federal 12-mile limit are to be respected and act as a deterrent to foreign fishermen, they must be strongly enforced; and

WHEREAS Russian trawlers have been recently caught fishing in United States territorial waters within 12 miles of the Alaska Peninsula; and

WHEREAS conviction on the charge of violating United States territorial fishing rights would bring a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and a one-year jail term for the skipper of the seized trawler, as well as forfeiture of the boat, its gear, cargo, stores and shrimp catch; and

WHEREAS the Russian skippers received fines of \$5,000 and \$10,000; and

WHEREAS such a mild punishment will encourage further violations by foreign fishermen and will not act as a deterrent or protect the interests of the Alaska fishermen, as is being clearly

demonstrated by reports of further violations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fifth Legislature of the State of Alaska offers this resolution as an expression of its protest to the federal government for the lenient disposition of the cases against the Russian trawlers; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that future foreign violators receive maximum penalties under the law, and that nations whose nationals repeatedly violate the territorial water boundaries have that nation's fisheries import license revoked.