



Alaska State Legislature

1972

Source:

SCSHJR 89

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 89

Relating to participation by Alaska in the Conference on the Law of the Sea.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS an International Conference on the Law of the Sea is scheduled to be held in Geneva in 1973 and any agreement reached by the conference will have a deep and profound influence on Alaskan fisheries for generations to come; and

WHEREAS the preliminary proposals by the Department of State appear to offer little protection for either our national or Alaskan fisheries; and

WHEREAS our coastal fishery resources are being seriously depleted due largely to the effect of unregulated foreign fishing conducted without regard to sound conservation principles; and

WHEREAS conservation is urgently needed, both to maintain our fishery resources on a sustainable yield basis and to secure a sound economic future for our state's and nation's fisheries; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has, of all 50 states, the largest coastline, measuring 5,580 statute miles or 45 per cent of our nation's total coastline and 31,383 statute miles of tidal shoreline; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has innumerable fishing ports and villages, one of which, Kodiak, is the second largest fishing port in the entire United States; and

WHEREAS the fisheries industry, and fisheries related services, provide Alaska's largest source of income, having a total

value of more than \$200,000,000 annually; and

WHEREAS our fisheries industry is the largest seasonal employer of Alaska's citizens; and

WHEREAS representation in the Department of State delegation to the Conference on the Law of the Sea does not officially include the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS a state which has nearly half of the total coastline of the entire United States should most certainly have representation at a conference which so vitally affects its major industry and substantial source of livelihood and state revenue;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to direct the Department of State to include representation from the State of Alaska, considering its major significance as a fishery in the United States, in the delegation to the Conference on the Law of the Sea to be held in Geneva in 1973; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of Alaska's participation, the Secretary of State notify the governor immediately so that he can select and appoint legal and technical experts and an advisory committee of appropriate persons who are both knowledgeable in state fisheries matters and representative of Alaska's coastal areas, and take whatever action is necessary to assure their participation to the Law of the Sea Conference in 1973; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of State also be directed to conduct hearings before August 31, 1972 for the purpose of obtaining testimony from the citizens of Alaska on matters in which they are so deeply and personally involved, in Juneau, the capital city of the state; in Kodiak, the largest fisheries port in the state; in Anchorage, the largest city in the state and center of transportation and commerce; and in Fairbanks, site of the University of Alaska's Institute of Marine Research; and that this testimony be used in preparation of the position of the United States on proposals affecting fisheries of the United States and particularly of Alaska which will be considered at the conference.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Spiro T. Agnew, Vice-President of the United States; the Honorable William P. Rogers, Secretary, Department of State; the Honorable Peter G. Peterson, Secretary Designate, Department of Commerce; the Honorable J.W. Fulbright, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee; the Honorable Thomas E. Morgan, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee; the Honorable Ronald Reagan, Governor, State of California; the Honorable Dan Evans, Governor, State of Washington; the Honorable Tom McCall, Governor, State of Oregon; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.