



# Alaska State Legislature

1973

Source:

HCR 26

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Relating to the delineation of the territorial sea, contiguous zone and certain internal waters of the United States.

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

WHEREAS the coastline of Alaska meanders for approximately a total of 34,000 miles and represents over 50 per cent of the total United States seacoast; and

WHEREAS the International Convention of 1951 approved the measuring of Norway's coastline by the straight baseline method; and

WHEREAS the Convention of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, in 1958, adopted the straight baseline method of delineating coastlines; and

WHEREAS the United States is a signatory to the Convention of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone; and

WHEREAS Alaska's coastline is deeply indented and highly irregular and otherwise meets the criteria established in the "Norway Fisheries Case" and the Convention of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone for application of the straight baseline method of measuring coastlines; and

WHEREAS, if the coastline of Alaska were measured by other than the straight baseline method, where applicable, it could mean added disaster for our state's fisheries as some waters historically defined as internal waters of the state could be delimited as territorial sea or even international waters; and

WHEREAS it is vital to the State of Alaska and the Nation that Alaska's seaward boundaries be clearly defined as measured

by the straight baseline method where that method would be applicable;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Department of Natural Resources to immediately prepare detailed maps of the state applying the straight baseline concept to the coastline of Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that at the earliest possible time after completion of the maps the Governor direct the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Attorney General, or their designees, as well as a designee of the Governor, together with one representative to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one senator to be appointed by the President of the Senate, to travel to Washington, D. C.; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that while in Washington they work with Alaska's Congressional delegation and with the Departments of State, Interior, and Defense to persuade the federal government to permit Alaska's coastline to be measured by the straight baseline method where that method would be applicable.