



Alaska State Legislature

1975

Source:

HCR 4

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Requesting increased and expanded protection for the state's fish and shellfish resources.

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

WHEREAS valuable fish and shellfish resources adjacent to Alaska are being subjected to an intensive fishery by nonresident fishermen; and

WHEREAS many nonresident fishermen, particularly in the Bering Sea, are attempting to circumvent fish and shellfish conservation and management measures of the Board of Fish and Game in order to obtain private economic gain at the expense of the resources; and

WHEREAS those nonresident fishermen are demonstrating gross disregard for the future maintenance and sustained yield of fish and shellfish resources and constitute a serious and continuing threat to these resources; and

WHEREAS those nonresident fishermen are generating unnecessary costs to state taxpayers by forcing the state to mount expensive enforcement efforts and to engage in protracted litigation; and

WHEREAS those nonresident fishermen are jeopardizing the future livelihood of Alaskan fishermen and of law-abiding nonresident fishermen;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ninth Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the appropriate state agencies to

(1) continue vigilant enforcement of the landing law and all other legally justifiable regulatory measures for the protection of fish and shellfish resources;

(2) refuse, where constitutionally and legally permissible, to extend privileges or services of the state to nonresident fishermen who disregard the conservation and management measures of the Board of Fish and Game;

(3) actively pursue negotiations with appropriate agencies of the federal government in order to bring about the application of any regulatory measures or other controls available under federal authority which can be utilized to resolve the nonresident fishing problem, if these measures or other controls are consistent with the maintenance of the state's primary management responsibility over fish and shellfish resources;

(4) continue to defend conservation and management regulations of the Board of Fish and Game in the courts where these regulations are challenged or violated;

(5) maintain a policy of refusing to submit to threats or to political pressures exerted by nonresident fishermen determined to preclude Alaska's regulation and conservation of adjacent fish and shellfish resources;

(6) refuse to negotiate with, recognize, or otherwise deal with organizations of nonresident fishermen aimed at avoiding responsibility regarding the continued maintenance of fish and shellfish resources, such as the so-called Shellfish Conservation Institute, except to the extent that it may directly further state interests; and

(7) use other means and measures directed towards insuring that fish and shellfish resources adjacent to Alaska are not destroyed or degraded.