



# Alaska State Legislature

1975

Source:

HJR 9

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Relating to high seas salmon fishing by the Japanese.

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

WHEREAS the International Convention for High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean became effective in June of 1953; and

WHEREAS the United States, by participating in that convention, intended to seek an agreement whereby the Japanese would abstain from taking salmon of North American origin; and

WHEREAS the agreement has been stultified by Japan's exercise of the veto power granted under the terms of the convention; and

WHEREAS, in fact, the Japanese have taken approximately 47,000,000 Bristol Bay red salmon, a number of fish comprising more than twenty per cent of the return since 1953; and

WHEREAS this harvesting of salmon has been doubly disastrous to the salmon resources of Western Alaska because of the fact that large numbers of the harvested salmon are immature; and

WHEREAS the Bristol Bay red salmon resource is presently in a stage of biological collapse which will require virtually complete closure of our in-shore domestic fishery over one or more salmon life cycles; and

WHEREAS there is evidence that due to the decreased availability of red salmon the Japanese are increasing their fishing efforts on the chum and king salmon stocks of Western Alaska which are of paramount importance to the subsistence and cash economies of that region; and

WHEREAS immediate agreements must be negotiated with foreign governments, especially the Japanese government, to limit foreign salmon catches and to set jurisdictional boundaries;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Department of State is urgently requested to immediately make every effort to negotiate agreements with the Japanese which will protect the salmon stocks of Western Alaska from further destruction.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States; the Honorable Henry Kissinger, Secretary, Department of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.