

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1978

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HJR 66

14



Requesting the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assist in the development of Alaska bottomfish fisheries.

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

WHEREAS the national balance of trade in bottomfish is currently heavily weighted toward imports of foreign-processed fish; and

WHEREAS United States participants have historically demonstrated that they can be competitive with foreign efforts if they are given the opportunity to develop and acquire the necessary gear and equipment; and

WHEREAS domestic processing entities are increasingly being bought out by Japanese interests; and

WHEREAS the Japanese provide one of our largest foreign markets for bottomfish, leading to an understandable concern on the part of the American industry that our free market system may be thwarted; and

WHEREAS there is merit in providing American citizens an opportunity to maintain the initiative in the production and marketing of finished seafood products; and

WHEREAS, without this opportunity, America will lose its options as to where the products go and at what prices; and

WHEREAS two large processors will have invested as much as \$7 million in the Alaska bottomfish fishery by the end of this year; and

WHEREAS these processors must have the fish delivered in order to survive; and

WHEREAS the failure of these operations would be devastating to the entire Alaska bottomfish industry; and

WHEREAS other states, as well as Alaska, will directly benefit from the development of the Alaska bottomfish fishery as a result of the expected increased need for boats, gear and equipment;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is urgently requested to allocate \$3.3 million to the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation to fund its two-year program for the development of the bottomfish fishery in Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard Frank, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; 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.