

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1983

Source

HCS CSSJR 10 (Fish)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

4



Requesting renegotiation of the proposed United States-Canada salmon interception treaty and rejection in its present form.

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

WHEREAS the commercial salmon industry is an integral and important part of the economy of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the proposed treaty between the United States and Canada concerning Pacific salmon calls upon Southeast Alaska's salmon fishermen to take further reductions in harvest, while calling upon Canadian fishermen to take only their first reduction; and

WHEREAS the Southeast Alaska trollers have already been compelled to make considerable unilateral reductions in their harvests of chinook salmon for the sake of conservation, while Canadian fishermen have been allowed comparatively unrestricted harvest of the same resource; and

WHEREAS chinook salmon conservation measures proposed in the treaty are based on catch statistics for years in which Canadian catches were at record high levels and their fishery was expanding, while during the same years the Alaskan fishery was already being restricted; and

WHEREAS under the proposed treaty a substantial portion of Stikine River salmon, which traditionally has been harvested by United States gillnetters, would be allocated to a recently established Canadian fishery without compensation to the United States; and

WHEREAS the proposed treaty does not preclude the possibility of an expansion of the Canadian gillnet fishery on the Taku River and a reduction in allowable harvest by United States gillnetters; and

WHEREAS, although the provisions of the proposed treaty addressing Yukon River salmon require an accounting of United States and Canadian interests in those salmon prior to the effective date of the treaty, the United States and Canada possess virtually no biological information upon which to base such an accounting; and

WHEREAS there are no guarantees in the proposed treaty that United States fishermen will automatically and directly benefit from their own successful fisheries enhancement projects; and

WHEREAS all commercial salmon gear groups have expressed opposition to certain provisions in the proposed treaty; and

WHEREAS the proposed treaty does not address the issue of high seas foreign interception of all species of salmon; and

WHEREAS the language in the proposed treaty is not sufficiently specific to insure the conservation and rational management sought by the parties to the treaty; and

WHEREAS implementation of the proposed treaty would have a disastrous economic impact on many Alaskan fishermen; and

WHEREAS it is vitally important that a treaty transferring significant management authority from the state to an international commission include clear safeguards to protect Alaska's fisheries; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the value of a coastwide agreement and the need to work towards the development of a fair treaty;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor of the State of Alaska to urge greater consideration of Alaska's interest in the proposed United States-Canada salmon interception treaty; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate delegation in Congress is respectfully requested to use its best efforts to prevent ratification of the United States-Canada salmon interception treaty in its present form by the United States Senate; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary of State to seek reopening of United States-Canada salmon treaty negotiations with renewed efforts to secure terms to better protect the Alaska fishing industry.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Shultz, Secretary of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U. S. Senators, members of the Alaska Senate delegation in Congress; and to the Honorable Bill Sheffield, Governor of the State of Alaska.