

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1983

### Source

HCS CSSJR 7(Res)

### Legislative Resolve No.

5



Relating to the imposition of a halibut moratorium and the establishment of a shares system for halibut in Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has recommended imposition of a moratorium on Alaska's halibut fisheries and is considering recommending the establishment of a share-quota system for the allocation of the fishery resource; and

WHEREAS the proposed moratorium would exclude fishermen who did not participate from 1978 to 1982; and

WHEREAS many people in Alaska oppose imposition of a moratorium in any form, while many others in Alaska favor imposition of a moratorium as proposed or in another form; and

WHEREAS a share system could result in the concentration of ownership of the fishery resource in the hands of a few fishermen; and

WHEREAS a share system could encourage speculation and the making of exorbitant profits at the expense of Alaska fishermen; and

WHEREAS concentration of ownership in and speculation by nonresidents could result in a loss to Alaska fishing communities and to the state of a fishery resource valued at \$50,000,000 annually; and

WHEREAS a share system could tend to eliminate competition among halibut fishermen; and

WHEREAS existing management tools, such as harvest levels, size limits, gear restrictions, and area closures, are less

drastic alternatives to a share-quota system and have not been adequately considered by the management council; and

WHEREAS numerous Alaska communities, including Akutan, Cordova, Craig, Kenai, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, King Cove, Kodiak, the Kodiak Island Borough, Valdez, and Whittier, and organizations, including the Kodiak Area Native Association, the Kodiak Area Chamber of Commerce, the Alaska Druggers, and the United Fishermen's Marketing Association, have passed resolutions or otherwise expressed views in opposition to the share-quota system; and

WHEREAS the Legislature would oppose the use of state-operated facilities and other forms of cooperation in implementing a share-quota system; and

WHEREAS much testimony has been given regarding the negative impact of the high incidental catch of halibut;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Secretary of Commerce and the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are respectfully requested to give serious consideration to the comments submitted by Alaskans regarding the imposition of a moratorium on Alaska halibut fisheries; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Secretary of Commerce and the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to consider alternative halibut management techniques, such as shorter openings over a longer period of time, area registration, and harvest limits as a means of accommodating substantial regional differences and addressing the problem of short seasons; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Commerce and the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are respectfully requested to disapprove any share-quota system for halibut in Alaska that is recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Secretary of Commerce and the administrator of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to seek methods of reducing the incidental catch of halibut.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; Mr. John V. Byrne, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Mr. Clem Tillion, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.