

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1985

Source

SCSHJR 33(R1s) am S

Legislative
Resolve No.

17



Relating to support for the first on-shore commercial production of surimi by the Alaska seafood industry.

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

WHEREAS approximately 2,600,000,000 pounds of Alaska pollock is harvested annually, and much of this harvest is either taken by Japanese fishing vessels or purchased by the Japanese fishing industry from the American fishing industry; and

WHEREAS Japanese industry utilizes approximately 70 percent of its supply of Alaska pollock for the production of surimi and surimi products, and a significant portion of this production is then exported to the United States, where surimi usage has risen from less than 1,000 tons in 1979 to 30,000 tons in 1984; and

WHEREAS the American fishing industry receives approximately \$.05 a pound for pollock, while the finished surimi products exported from Japan to the United States sell for approximately \$1.75 a pound, aggravating the U.S. trade deficit that was \$4,000,000,000 in 1984 for fishery products alone; and

WHEREAS the capacity of the U.S. fishing fleet to harvest Alaska pollock has increased tremendously in recent years, with the American fishing industry harvesting almost 500,000 tons of pollock in 1984; and

WHEREAS the surimi products presently used in the U.S. can be produced from just 102,000 tons of Alaska pollock; and

WHEREAS Alaskan surimi is a wholesome food product, made from fresh-caught North Pacific pollock, and dollar for dollar has as much or more nutritional value than many traditional seafood products; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is requiring

surimi marketed in the form of crab strips and other seafood analogue products to be inappropriately labeled as "imitation," and this labeling requirement would discourage sales of this nutritious product and the development of a new domestic industry; and

WHEREAS surimi has great potential as a functional protein ingredient for many products in addition to seafood analogues, and the U.S. market for surimi in all forms continues to grow; and

WHEREAS projections indicate that establishing a complete pollock surimi industry, including harvesting, processing, distribution and sales in the U.S., would produce a \$6,000,000,000-a-year industry; and

WHEREAS Alaska Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska, in conjunction with the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, has demonstrated that top-quality surimi can be produced commercially in on-shore American facilities; and

WHEREAS Alaska Pacific Seafood will produce an initial pack of 860,000 pounds of surimi for use by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation to encourage growth of the U.S. market for domestically produced surimi; and

WHEREAS funding for this project was provided by the federal government through a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant to the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, with matching money and in-kind services provided by industry, fishing groups, and individuals;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature expresses its appreciation for this project and gratitude for their support, to the United States Congress, the U.S. Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service, and the many industry organizations, fishery groups, and individuals that contributed to the success of this project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully requests the United States Congress, the United States Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service, and other concerned groups to continue their support for this project because it has the potential to encourage the full domestic use of the resources of the United States Fisheries Conservation Zone and to enhance the economic well-being of all persons in Alaska and in the other states of the nation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully requests the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to work with the seafood processing industry to develop a label other than "imitation" to distinguish, as a consumer service, surimi products from traditional seafood products.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable John C. Danforth, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; to the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to the Honorable John

B. Breaux, Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce; to the Honorable Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; to the Honorable David Stockman, Director, Office of Management and Budget; to the Honorable Frank E. Young, Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; 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; to Chris Mitchell, Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation; and to William G. Gordon, Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce.