

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1985

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HJR 43 am

LR 24



Relating to the interception of Alaska salmon on the high seas.

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

WHEREAS Alaska's salmon represents one of the state's most important renewable resources; and

WHEREAS more than 40,000 people are employed in commercial fish processing and harvesting jobs in the state during the salmon season, and thousands of other people in the transportation and service industries in the state benefit from this economic activity; and

WHEREAS the Alaska commercial salmon industry contributes millions of dollars annually to state and local government treasuries through taxes, assessments and fees, and salmon fishing and processing represent the economic backbone of many coastal communities in the state; and

WHEREAS salmon is a mainstay in the diets of state residents who harvest the great fish by rod and reel, net, and fishwheel for personal and family consumption; and

WHEREAS recreational fishing for salmon is an experience enjoyed by most state residents each year; and

WHEREAS more than 1,000,000 salmon originating in the state are estimated to have been harvested on the high seas by Japanese fishing fleets during 1983; and

WHEREAS high seas interceptions deprived Alaska of commercial fishing opportunities valued at more than \$19,000,000 to fishermen, and more than \$36,000,000 to seafood processors; and

WHEREAS this lost opportunity cost the state treasury

roughly \$500,000 to \$800,000 in lost fisheries business tax revenue alone; and

WHEREAS the interception figures include 106,000 chinook salmon from South Central Alaska stocks, more than the combined catches of recreational, commercial and subsistence fishermen in Cook Inlet in 1983; and

WHEREAS foreign fishing fleets catch billions of pounds of fish and shellfish in the state's 200-mile fishery conservation zone each year;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the U.S. Department of State to vigorously pursue negotiations that will lead to complete elimination of high seas interceptions of salmon of Alaska origin; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests U.S. Congress to adopt amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act preventing nations that intercept Alaska-bound salmon on the high seas from receiving allocations to harvest groundfish in the United States' 200-mile fishery conservation zone.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Schultz, Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Dole, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; 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; to Mr. William Gordon, assistant administrator for fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; and to Mr. James Campbell, chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.