

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1985

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SCS CSHJR 8 (Res)

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Relating to the allocation of Gulf of Alaska sablefish harvest by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

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

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on December 8, 1984, voted to allocate 10 percent of the optimum yield of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery to incidental catch by joint venture fishermen; and

WHEREAS joint venture operations in the Gulf of Alaska have expanded dramatically in recent years; and

WHEREAS continued expansion of joint venture participation with foreign processors in the Gulf of Alaska should be accommodated by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in such a manner as to enhance, and not restrict, development of the domestic fishery; and

WHEREAS use of longline gear in catching sablefish is ecologically sound; and

WHEREAS the use of pot gear also is a recognized method for United States fishermen to harvest sablefish; and

WHEREAS longline gear and pot gear are incompatible gear types; and

WHEREAS Alaska longline fishermen have the capacity to harvest, and United States processors have the capacity to process, the entire allowable catch of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act establishes a priority for United States fishermen delivering to United States processors; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, in allocating fishing privileges among fishermen and among gear types, is directed by management plan guidelines to consider such relevant factors as the economic and social consequences of the allocation scheme and the dependence on the fishery by present participants and coastal communities;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is respectfully requested to rescind its action recommending joint venture fishermen an incidental catch of sablefish equal to 10 percent of the optimum yield of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery, and set aside reserves in the Central and Western Regulatory Areas to allow incidental catch of sablefish based on actual needs rather than optimum yield; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is respectfully requested to take action at its February 1985 meeting to grant longline fishermen exclusive fishing rights in the sablefish fishery in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska, from Dixon Entrance to a west longitude determined by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is respectfully requested to study the impact an exclusive longline fishery in the Eastern Regulatory Area would have on the longline fishery in the Central and Western Regulatory Areas and to consider appropriate management options, such as exclusive areas, to minimize or prevent gear conflicts between longliners and sablefish pot fishermen in the Central and Western Regulatory Areas.

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 B. Breaux, chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; 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 the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; and Mr. James Campbell, chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.