

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1987

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SCS HJR 23(L&C)

21



Relating to tributyltin.

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

WHEREAS tributyltin is one of the most toxic substances ever deliberately introduced into the marine environment; and

WHEREAS tributyltin is used widely in marine bottom paints as an antifoulant and on the nets of marine fish pens to prevent the growth of plants, algae, and other substances on the pen mesh; and

WHEREAS an ever-increasing body of evidence indicates that tributyltin-based antifouling paints, and pens treated with tributyltin, cause substantial harm to the environment, cause deformities in oysters and other shellfish, and are lethal to juvenile chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS tributyltin is known to be harmful in amounts exceeding five parts per trillion; and

WHEREAS high concentrations of tributyltin have been found in the water of west coast marinas, ranging from 100 to 1,000 parts per trillion; and

WHEREAS recent studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service have found that salmon reared in sea pens treated with tributyltin absorb tributyltin in their flesh, resulting in concentrations in the fish exceeding five parts per trillion; and

WHEREAS pen-reared salmon contaminated with tributyltin and imported into the United States or produced domestically enter the fresh, frozen, and smoked fish markets along with wild salmon; and

WHEREAS studies have shown that exposure to tributyltin can be dangerous to the health of people and, therefore, human consumption of fish contaminated with tributyltin should be avoided; and

WHEREAS cooking was found to be ineffective in destroying or removing tributyltin from the contaminated fish; and

WHEREAS the United States Navy is considering a conversion to the use of tributyltin-additive bottom paints for its fleet; and

WHEREAS tributyltin-based bottom paints have been banned or restricted in France and Great Britain at the insistence of the fishing industry; and

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency is the agency responsible for the protection of the coastal environment in the United States; and

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency has the expert staff necessary to prepare and distribute appropriate informative materials on the use of tributyltin and its potential adverse effects on the marine environment; and

WHEREAS alternative antifoulant bottom paints exist and are available to military, commercial, and recreational fleets;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Food and Drug Administration is respectfully requested to impose an immediate ban on the importation and sale in the United States of salmon reared in tributyltin-treated aquaculture pens; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States is respectfully requested to

(1) ban the use of tributyltin-based bottom paints on all military, commercial, and recreational vessels, unless a method is developed for the safe use of tributyltin-based bottom paint or paints containing derivatives of organotin;

(2) require the Environmental Protection Agency to expedite its special review of tributyltin and to expand the review to include all 20 tributyltin compounds;

(3) ban the importation and sale in the United States of salmon reared in tributyltin-treated aquaculture pens;

(4) immediately direct the Environmental Protection Agency to create and distribute to every boat owner in the United States a brochure regarding tributyltin;

(5) establish national standards for concentrations of tributyltin in salt water and fresh water;

(6) impose a levy on tributyltin producers, based on the number of pounds of active tributyltin produced, and use the proceeds of the levy to provide each state with money to monitor, review, and evaluate the effects of tributyltin on the marine environment.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable

Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable John C. Stennis, President pro tempore of the United States Senate; to the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; to the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; to the Honorable Walter B. Jones, chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; to each member of the California, Oregon, and Washington Congressional delegations; to Lee M. Thomas, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; to Dr. Frank E. Young, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration; 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.