

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1987

Source

SCS SSHJR 5 (Res)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

9



Relating to the reflagging of foreign fish processing vessels.

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

WHEREAS the United States is making progress toward the goal of full use of the groundfish resources off the coast of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the groundfish processing capacity of United States processing plants has been unable to keep pace with the groundfish harvesting capacity of United States fishermen, which is supported largely by foreign processors; and

WHEREAS federal law allows foreign processors to "reflag", i.e., document foreign-built vessels as United States vessels; and

WHEREAS the vessel ownership requirements of federal documentation laws are written so broadly to allow foreign processors to retain effective control of a reflagged processing vessel by setting up a token United States corporation; and

WHEREAS several operations involving reflagging are being considered; and

WHEREAS continuing to allow the reflagging of foreign processing vessels would harm United States processors by hindering their efforts to reach the goal of full use of the groundfish resources; and

WHEREAS reflagged foreign processing vessels could destroy Alaskan shore-based processing, which is the economic basis of many Alaskan coastal communities, by invading the salmon, crab, halibut, shrimp, and other fisheries traditionally relied upon by Alaska processors; and

WHEREAS the reflagging of foreign processing vessels could prevent United States processing plants from gaining entry into the foreign market; and

WHEREAS the reflagging of foreign processing vessels would impede the formation of capital in the United States for investment in processing vessels built in the United States; and

WHEREAS the reflagging of foreign processing vessels would be a deterrent to the employment of the United States labor force; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has unanimously endorsed the call for a solution to the significant problem of reflagging foreign processing vessels;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the United States is urgently requested to pass legislation that would prevent the foreign take-over of United States fisheries through use of the reflagging mechanism; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that any legislation passed by the Congress contain a provision that all seamen and fish processing workers on a United States documented fish processing vessel be United States citizens.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the United States Senate; the Honorable John Stennis, President pro tempore of the United States Senate; the Honorable Robert Byrd, Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Ernest Hollings, Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chairman, House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee; 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; and to Mr. James Campbell, Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.