

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

SJR 44

44



Relating to economic sanctions against Taiwan for high seas interception of Alaska salmon and steelhead.

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

WHEREAS salmon and steelhead are a vital part of the commercial and sport fishing industries of the western coast of the United States and contribute billions of dollars to the national economy each year; and

WHEREAS Alaska salmon and steelhead are among the state's most important natural resources; and

WHEREAS Alaska salmon and steelhead are fully utilized by domestic fisheries, constitute the primary economic base of many coastal and river communities in the state, and are important to the state's developing tourist industry; and

WHEREAS high seas harvests of Alaska salmon defeat the state's careful fisheries management and enhancement programs for salmon and deprive the state of an economic return on its investment in salmon hatcheries; and

WHEREAS poor salmon runs in Alaska in 1988, the increased incidence of net marked salmon and steelhead, and recent reports of large quantities of illegally harvested salmon being sold in Europe and Asia have heightened public concern over high seas interception of salmon and steelhead; and

WHEREAS the agencies and organizations monitoring the high seas interception of salmon believe that about 10,000 metric tons of salmon were caught in 1988, primarily by Taiwanese fishermen who market the salmon through Singapore, Thailand, and other countries; and

WHEREAS the Taiwanese squid fleet now contains more than 100

vessels, most of which fish with gill net gear that is just the right size to capture immature salmon on the high seas, and is virtually unregulated and unmonitored; and

WHEREAS tens of thousands of marine mammals and hundreds of thousands of sea birds may die in Taiwanese gill nets each year; and

WHEREAS Taiwan is not a member of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission or any other treaty organization for North Pacific fisheries; and

WHEREAS the United States Secretary of Commerce has yet to reach agreements with Taiwan for monitoring of fishing activities of the Taiwanese drift net fishing fleet and enforcement of fishing laws and agreements as directed by the Driftnet Impact Monitoring, Assessment, and Control Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-220); and

WHEREAS the prospects for reaching monitoring and enforcement agreements with Taiwan by June 30, 1989, are very poor; and

WHEREAS the failure of Taiwan to enter into monitoring and enforcement agreements with the United States by June 30, 1989, will result in a certification to the President under section 8(a) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, known as the Pelly Amendment, that Taiwanese fishermen are conducting fishing operations in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of international fishery conservation programs; and

WHEREAS the President may, under the Pelly Amendment, prohibit the importation into the United States of fish and aquatic products from an offending nation; and

WHEREAS the value of products that may be subject to a sanction under the Pelly Amendment against Taiwan was \$445,000,000 in 1987;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the President to invoke immediately the full extent of Pelly Amendment sanctions that are possible against Taiwan if Taiwan fails to enter into monitoring and enforcement agreements by June 30, 1989, as required by the Driftnet Impact Monitoring, Assessment, and Control Act.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Edward E. Wolfe, U.S. Ambassador for Fisheries and the Ocean; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the members of the California, Oregon, and Washington delegations in Congress; the governors of the states of California, Oregon, and Washington; 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.