

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1991

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Source

CSSJR 30(O&G)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

43

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Relating to federal oil leases in the North Aleutian Basin section of Bristol Bay.

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

**WHEREAS** the state supports the prudent and orderly development of the state's outer continental shelf oil and gas resources in an environmentally acceptable manner; and

**WHEREAS**, with the exception of the North Aleutian Basin section of Bristol Bay, the state has not requested a ban or moratorium on oil and gas leasing and drilling on any of Alaska's outer continental shelf planning areas; and

**WHEREAS** the state does not receive any significant revenue from outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales; and

**WHEREAS** an annual average of 45,000,000 to 60,000,000 adult salmon migrate through the North Aleutian Basin to the Bristol Bay river system, and an annual average of 1,000,000,000 salmon smolt out-migrate through the North Aleutian Basin to ocean feeding grounds; and

**WHEREAS** the entire North Aleutian Basin is within an area defined by the International Pacific Halibut Commission as a halibut nursery conservation area; and

**WHEREAS** the current federal oil drilling leases in the North Aleutian Basin are located in a vital red king crab habitat area; and

**WHEREAS** the Bristol Bay region is considered to be one of the world's richest fisheries and is home to numerous migratory waterfowl, sea birds, and marine mammals that are important to subsistence as well as to the North Aleutian Basin ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS** Bristol Bay region domestic commercial fisheries for salmon, crab, herring, pollock, halibut, yellowfin sole, rock sole, cod, and other groundfish have an average annual wholesale value of approximately \$1,000,000,000 and employ over 10,000 people annually; and

**WHEREAS** the state recognized the economic importance of the Bristol Bay area when it set aside the Bristol Bay fisheries reserve; and

**WHEREAS** currently there is a moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin; and

**WHEREAS** there is an element of risk in all oil and gas exploration, development, and transportation;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds the existing benefits to the people of Alaska and the nation from the Bristol Bay fisheries far outweigh the federal government's need to explore the region for oil and gas; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the development of a federal plan to repurchase the oil and gas leases that were sold in North Aleutian Basin Lease Sale 92 or to allow the lessees to credit the cost of the leases towards other federal outer continental shelf sales; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor of Alaska, the appropriate federal officials, and the appropriate federal legislators to enter into discussions for the purpose of reaching an agreement on a repurchase or credit plan for the leases that resulted from Lease Sale 92; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that a Lease Sale 92 repurchase or credit plan should include a provision that the leases that are repurchased or included in a credit plan may not be resold; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Congress and the United States Secretary of the Interior to continue the current moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin outer continental shelf planning area and implement the repurchase or credit plan.

**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 Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate and Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Richard A. Gephardt, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert H. Michel, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Resources; the Honorable Jamie L. Whitten, Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable George Miller, Chair of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Sidney R. Yates, Chair of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of the Interior; Dr. John A. Knauss, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Barry Williamson, Director, Minerals Management Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, United States Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.