

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1992

Source
SJR 52

Legislative
Resolve No.
55



Supporting the inshore-offshore fisheries allocation plans proposed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

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

WHEREAS, in June 1991, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council approved plans to allocate specific percentages of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea to the inshore processing sector and to the offshore processing sector; and

WHEREAS the plans are being reviewed by the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS the plans cannot be implemented until they are approved by the Secretary of Commerce; and

WHEREAS the offshore processing sector, commonly known as factory trawlers, has launched an extensive lobbying campaign in Washington D.C. with the goal of convincing the Secretary of Commerce to reject the proposed plans to allocate between inshore and offshore processors; and

WHEREAS factory trawlers practice highly wasteful fishing techniques; and

WHEREAS, in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea, factory trawlers discard approximately one pound of fish for every 2.5 pounds of fish utilized; and

WHEREAS, in the Gulf of Alaska, the shore based catcher fleet utilizes six pounds of fish for every pound of fish discarded; and

WHEREAS, in the Bering Sea, the shore based catcher fleet utilizes 34 pounds of fish for every pound of fish discarded; and

WHEREAS factory trawlers harvest fishery resources that are the common property of the United States, yet do not pay any royalties, bonuses, or taxes on these resources; and

WHEREAS the shore based harvesting and processing sectors pay State of Alaska, and often municipal, fisheries taxes on fish landed; and

WHEREAS the taxes paid by shore based harvesters and processors help pay for fisheries management, enforcement, research, and local support services; and

WHEREAS shore based processing facilities must satisfy both state and federal food processing regulations in order to ensure the wholesomeness of the product and are inspected regularly while the factory trawlers are not held to these same standards; and

WHEREAS federal and state laws pertaining to worker safety are enforced at shore based processing facilities while working conditions aboard factory trawlers are virtually unregulated; and

WHEREAS shore based processing facilities are strictly regulated for pollutant discharge in order to ensure protection of the environment while factory trawlers are subject to less strict standards and, by the nature of their operations, can make illegal discharges that are less likely to be detected; and

WHEREAS the approval of the inshore and offshore fisheries allocation plans is one of the most critical issues now facing the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the approval of the inshore and offshore fisheries allocation plans is an absolute necessity for the economic stability of Alaska's coastal communities and for the economic and social well-being of the thousands of people who live and work in those communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary of Commerce to approve and implement the inshore and offshore fisheries allocation plans proposed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

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 Barbara Franklin, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable John A. Knauss, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; Dr. William Fox, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; 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.