

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1992

Source
CSSJR 10(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
85



Relating to the discharge of ballast water by vessels entering the waters of Alaska.

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

WHEREAS Alaska's subsistence, commercial, and recreational fisheries are important to the economy of the state and are essential to the lifestyle of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS the fishery resources and other aquatic resources of the state are threatened by the introduction of exotic aquatic organisms brought into Alaska in the ballast water of tankers and freighters arriving from foreign ports; and

WHEREAS in recent years, several exotic planktonic and benthic organisms have arrived and become established in the estuarine and coastal waters of the contiguous states of the United States; and

WHEREAS an exotic organism is suspected of causing a great decline in the abundance of important food for striped bass in the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary of California; and

WHEREAS exotic eel grass arriving in the ballast of sea-going vessels has created problems in Humboldt Bay and other estuaries of the Pacific Coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS other introductions of exotic organisms probably have occurred and will

occur in the estuarine and coastal waters of the Pacific Coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS similar introductions of exotic organisms have occurred in the Great Lakes and have caused harm to the fisheries of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS protection of natural aquatic ecosystems and the native fish and other native aquatic organisms of Alaska is very important to the people of Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the U.S. Coast Guard to adopt regulations

(1) prohibiting the discharge of ballast water that originated in a foreign port into a river, estuary, bay, or coastal water of Alaska; and

(2) requiring ballast water that originated in a foreign port to be discharged at sea and replaced with ocean water before a vessel enters the waters of Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Andrew H. Card, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; to the Honorable Barbara H. Franklin, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; to Admiral William J. Kime, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; 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.