

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1994

Source
CSHJR 50(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
44



Relating to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council comprehensive rationalization plan.

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

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is considering the adoption of individual fishery quotas (IFQ) as a management scheme for the groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska; and

WHEREAS the concept of IFQs means granting individual fish harvesters or boat owners ownership of a share in the harvest of these offshore groundfish and crab resources to the exclusion of others currently participating in the fisheries; and

WHEREAS the IFQ system provides no incentives or requirements for fish harvesters and boat owners to sell their catch to shore-based processors and creates incentives to deliver and to sell to offshore mother ships and factory trawlers; and

WHEREAS the IFQ system would greatly reduce the volume of groundfish and crab sold to shore-based processors; and

WHEREAS the shutdown or reduction of shore-based processing operations will greatly reduce the contribution that shore-based processors make to state and local taxes and

economies and will severely and adversely affect local employment, taxes, and social and economic stability in the coastal communities of Alaska; and

WHEREAS in 1992, according to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Department of Labor, and Department of Revenue and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, the Alaska seafood processing industry harvested more than 5,500,000,000 pounds of fish; processed these fish in more than 500 large and small Alaska seafood processors registered with the state; paid fish harvesters \$1,400,000,000; provided more than 35,000 shore-based jobs in Alaska; spent \$280,000,000 to support its activities; paid over \$60,000,000 in taxes and cash benefits to the state and Alaska's coastal communities; paid \$10,000,000 for salmon enhancement; paid \$700,000 in fisheries related and marine mammal research and \$3,200,000 for domestic marketing of Alaska seafood products; invested \$1,000,000,000 in shoreside plants; paid \$11,000,000 to local governments in municipal fish taxes; and paid over \$3,000,000 in local real and property taxes; and

WHEREAS, in Western Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, and Kodiak, shore-based processors pay over \$400,000,000 annually to fish harvesters; process 1,250,000,000 pounds of crab, groundfish, salmon, herring, and halibut; employ over 13,000 people; pay over \$90,000,000 in annual payroll; purchase \$45,000,000 in goods, services, and utilities; pay over \$7,000,000 in local raw fish taxes; and in 1992 paid over \$900,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS the current open access fishing regime coupled with an onshore allocation of a percentage of the groundfish and crab to the shore-based processors allows the continued participation by shore-based processors in the groundfish and crab fisheries and the continued contributions by shore-based processors to jobs, taxes, and social and economic stability of coastal communities in the state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to incorporate fairness, equal rights of access, and equity to the current participants in the groundfish and crab fisheries in the comprehensive rationalization plan it is now considering in order to ensure the continued participation of the shore-based processors in these fisheries and the continued contributions they bring to coastal communities and the State of Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Richard Lauber, chair of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; 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.