

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1995

Legislative
Resolve No.

33

Source

CSSJR 20(RES) am



Relating to the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program, the inshore/offshore allocation process, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Comprehensive Rationalization Program.

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

WHEREAS the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program is a fisheries development program involving the federal Department of Commerce, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska, and 56 Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

WHEREAS the CDQ program has set aside 7.5 percent of the available Bering Sea pollock quota during 1992 through 1995 for Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

WHEREAS the amount of pollock available for harvest under the CDQ program is more than 100,000 metric tons per year and has an approximate annual value of \$20,000,000; and

WHEREAS the CDQ program allocates the available harvest of pollock among eligible communities, local fishermen's organizations, and local economic development organizations who in turn reinvest the proceeds from the harvest and processing of the pollock in additional local fisheries development projects; and

WHEREAS the CDQ program has been expanded to include halibut and sablefish (black cod); and

WHEREAS the CDQ program is important to the economic development of the Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands communities; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council established the CDQ program as a component of the inshore and offshore allocation of Bering Sea pollock; and

WHEREAS the CDQ program represents an unparalleled opportunity for long-term stable economic development for the communities of the Bering Sea coast, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands; and

WHEREAS the social and economic welfare of many Alaska coastal communities is largely dependent upon continued access to and utilization of the vast pacific cod and pollock resources off the shores of Alaska; and

WHEREAS access to and utilization of the pacific cod and pollock resources has been assured under the inshore/offshore allocation adopted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

WHEREAS the increased harvesting capacity of the large industrialized offshore fishing fleets have developed an advantage over the catcher boat fleet that harvests fish for shoreside processing plants; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is preparing to adopt a Comprehensive Rationalization Plan (CRP) for groundfish and crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's CRP will limit access in the groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska, which are important to Alaska's coastal communities and to Alaska's seafood industry;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is respectfully requested to allocate Bering Sea groundfish and crab to the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups and support the continuation of the inshore/offshore allocation process as parts of any Comprehensive Rationalization Plan (CRP) that the council prepares; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is also respectfully requested to ensure that any CRP developed by the

council guarantees access for Alaska's small boat fleet and coastal residents to groundfish and crab; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that any allocation of crab be made in concert with state management of the crab resources in the Bering Sea and not affect the state's ability to continue to manage those crab resources; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that nothing in this resolution should be construed as endorsing the federal individual fishery quota (IFQ) process, as endorsing reallocations of fishery resources from one group of Alaskans to another, or as a grant of federal jurisdiction over Alaska fisheries.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; Richard B. 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.