

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1996

Source
CSHJR 24(FSH)

Legislative
Resolve No.
39



Relating to reduction of wanton waste in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries.

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

WHEREAS more fish were discarded in the federally managed fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean than were landed by American fishermen in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1992; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, 25,881,596 kilograms of halibut and 1,866,272 kilograms of herring were discarded by fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, 15,459,253 crab were discarded by fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, 195,609 salmon were harvested in groundfish fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS these discarded herring, crab, and salmon are resources managed by the State of Alaska that were intercepted in offshore federal waters; and

WHEREAS these resources are the economic and cultural lifeblood for many Alaskans who depend on the sea for their livelihoods and subsistence; and

WHEREAS marine wildlife species in Alaska marine waters that depend on fish for food are faced with declining populations and a potential listing as endangered species; and

WHEREAS this continued wanton waste undermines any long-term management strategy

for sustained commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries, and places the rural communities of Alaska at risk; and

WHEREAS efforts to implement severe penalties against vessels responsible for high bycatch and discard rates have failed; and

WHEREAS minimizing the catch of undersized fish and reducing wanton waste will conserve fisheries resources for present and future generations of subsistence users, commercial and recreational fishermen, seafood industries, coastal communities, consumers, and the nation; and

WHEREAS fisheries can technically or operationally reduce waste and the incidental taking of nontarget species if given economic incentives or if appropriate regulatory measures are applied;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the wanton waste now occurring in federal fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea is of utmost ecological, social, and economical importance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Congress to amend the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or to enact other legislation, encompassing a broad range of measures to reduce wanton waste in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea fisheries, including harvest priority incentives for clean fishing practices and other management tools.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bob Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ron Brown, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable 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.