

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Source  
CSSJR 33(RES)

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
56



Supporting reduction of fishing capacity in the Bering Sea fishing fleet and Americanization of the fishing fleet through passage of S. 1221, the "American Fisheries Act," by the United States Congress.

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

**WHEREAS** overcapitalization of fish harvesting capacity in the Bering Sea has resulted in highly compressed, derby-style fisheries; and

**WHEREAS** overcapitalized fisheries typically lead to excessive exploitation of a fishery resource, often resulting in a precipitous decrease in the economic yield of the fishery resource; and

**WHEREAS** the State of Alaska values sustainable fishery management principles, which include minimizing bycatch and waste, maximizing utilization of the fishery resources harvested, minimizing adverse effects of fishing gear on fish habitat, and maximizing economic returns on the public fishery resource for the benefit of Alaska communities and the citizens of the United States on the whole; and

**WHEREAS** Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska has, with the cosponsorship of Senators Murkowski, Breaux, and Hollings, introduced S. 1221, the "American Fisheries Act"; and

**WHEREAS** S. 1221 would effectively limit fishing capacity in the Bering Sea fishing fleet through vessel size limitations and ownership requirements; and

**WHEREAS** S. 1221 would limit the maximum length, tonnage, and shaft horsepower of vessels engaging in domestic fisheries in the United States navigable waters and exclusive economic zone; and

**WHEREAS** S. 1221 would require that at least 75 percent of the controlling interest of a vessel engaged in the fisheries in the United States navigable waters and exclusive economic zone be owned by citizens of the United States; and

**WHEREAS** S. 1221 would correct a loophole in the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Anti-Reflagging Act of 1987 that allowed vessels that were rebuilt in foreign shipyards to enter the fisheries off Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** S. 1221 would permanently prohibit federal loan guarantees for any vessel intended for use as a fishing vessel that does not meet size, tonnage, horsepower, and domestic ownership criteria; and

**WHEREAS** S. 1221 would effectively promote further Americanization of the fisheries of the United States;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports those provisions of S. 1221, the "American Fisheries Act," that would reduce the fishing capacity of the Bering Sea fishing fleet and promote the Americanization of the fisheries of the United States; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Congress to pass S. 1221.

**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 Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; 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.