Presented by: Assemblymembers Campbell, Robinson, and Peterson
Introduced: 02/13/89
Drafted by: M.G.C.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1363

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE HIGH SEAS INTERCEPTION OF ALASKA SALMON AND STEELHEAD BY FOREIGN VESSELS.

WHEREAS, salmon and steelhead are among Alaska's most important natural resources, and

WHEREAS, salmon is vital to both the commercial and sport fishing industries of the entire western coast of the United States and contribute billions of dollars to the national economy each year, and

WHEREAS, steelhead is one of the premiere recreational game fishes of the entire western coast of the United States, and

WHEREAS, high seas harvests of Alaska salmon and steelhead defeat the state's careful management program and the rebuilding program for wild stocks and deprive the state of an economic return on its investment in the fishing industry, and

WHEREAS, poor runs in Southeast Alaska in 1988, the increased incidence of net marked salmon and steelhead, and recent reports of large quantities of illegally harvested salmon and steelhead being sold in Europe and Asia have heightened public concern over high seas interception of salmon and steelhead, and

WHEREAS, the Japanese, Taiwanese, and South Korean squid fleets now total more than 700 vessels, they trail more than 10,000 miles of gill net that is just the right size to capture immature salmon and steelhead on the high seas, and they are virtually unregulated and unmonitored, and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of marine mammals and hundreds of thousands of seabirds die in these gill nets each year, and

WHEREAS, these gill nets frequently break loose and continue to fish, killing birds, marine mammals, and fish for years, and

WHEREAS, customary international law generally prohibits nations from harvesting anadromous species on the high seas, and

WHEREAS, the harvest of nonanadromous species can be accomplished without the harvest of anadromous species, and the cessation of high seas interception of salmon and steelhead stocks can be accomplished without causing economic dislocation, and

WHEREAS, customary international law recognizes that all nations have a duty to cooperate in conserving fish stocks on the high seas, including salmon and steelhead stocks, and

WHEREAS, the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, which established the United States' authority over the 200-mile fishery conservation zone, is due for reauthorization by the Congress in 1989, and

WHEREAS, the Congress will be holding oversight hearings on the Driftnet Impact Monitoring, Assessment, and Control Act of 1987 which required negotiations with the governments of South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan for the purpose of curbing illegal and unregulated squid fishing operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That the Assembly respectfully requests the American section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission to hold firm in opposing expansion of foreign salmon and squid fishing areas, as well as foreign proposals to convert mothership fleets on the high seas to land-based fleets.

2. That the Assembly respectfully requests the Congress not to allow foreign vessels to fish for salmon and steelhead within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone.

3. That the Assembly respectfully requests the United States Department of State to immediately begin negotiating with all of the salmon producing countries for an international treaty that would ban all high seas salmon fishing.

4. That the Assembly respectfully requests the Congress to amend the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 - 1882) to ensure that United States jurisdiction over American anadromous species on the high seas will be effectively enforced to stop interception of salmon and steelhead on the high seas.

5. That the Assembly respectfully requests the United States Department of State and the Congress to take whatever actions are necessary to control the illegal and unregulated fishing activities of the South Korean, Taiwanese, and Japanese squid fleets.

6. That the Assembly respectfully requests the Congress to expand the Pelly Amendment to:

a. provide for sanctions against foreign nations whose fishermen intercept anadromous species on the high seas or who refuse to cooperate with the United States in developing and enforcing international fishing regulations to prevent interception of anadromous species on the high seas; and

b. include in the sanctions against those nations embargoes on fisheries and other products imported from those nations.

7. That the Assembly respectfully requests the Congress to provide continued funding for the United States high seas observer program and other salmon research programs and to provide funding for increased enforcement of high seas conservation agreements by the United States Coast Guard.

8. That copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Edward E. Wolfe, Ambassador for Fisheries and the Ocean, U.S. Department of State; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, U.S. Secretary of Commerce; William E. Evans, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and 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.

9. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 1989.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk