

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES RESOLUTION REGARDING RENEGOTIATION OF INPFC

WHEREAS the resumption of Japanese high seas salmon gillnetting in the early 1950's in the eastern Bering Sea was an issue of great concern to the Territory of Alaska and the United States because of the large number of Alaskan salmon that were being intercepted; and

WHEREAS this concern was instrumental in the development of the trilateral International North Pacific Fisheries Convention (INPFC), a primary purpose of which was to prevent to the extent practical the Japanese high seas catch of North American salmon; and

WHEREAS INPFC has proven unsuccessful in attaining this goal, since 23 years after its inception, Japan is still catching very substantial numbers of Western Alaska salmon in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean west of the INPFC provisional abstention line at 175° West longitude; and

WHEREAS the failure of INPFC in this regard was in part responsible for the strong Alaskan support for P. L. 94-265 (the 200-mile law) since it was the consensus of opinion that P. L. 94-265 would accomplish what INPFC could not; and

WHEREAS P. L. 94-265 clearly provides for the prompt renegotiation or termination of existing fishery treaties so that they will conform to the provisions of the 200-mile law; and

WHEREAS the INPFC clearly is contrary to P. L. 94-265 in many important issues including enforcement, jurisdiction, and present fishing privileges inside both the present U. S. 12-mile CFZ and the soon to be established 200-mile fishery conservation zone; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Board of Fisheries considers it to be of the utmost importance that INPFC be promptly renegotiated in the interest of the conservation of Alaska salmon which presently are vulnerable to the Japanese high seas salmon net fishery both within and outside the 200-mile fishery conservation zone;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Fisheries urges the Secretary of Commerce to request that the Department of State promptly take appropriate action to initiate the renegotiation process with Japan and Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that concurrent with this action the Department of State also involve to the maximum extent possible interested and concerned groups (North Pacific Fishery Management Council, U. S. Section INPFC, Alaska Board of Fisheries, etc ) in the development of the United States position and goals regarding the future of INPFC and the Japanese high seas salmon fishery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Mike Gravel, Congressman Don Young and the Honorable Jay S. Hammond, Governor of Alaska.

Signed Gordon Jensen  
Gordon Jensen, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATED: Dec 4, 1976