

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Resolution 83-100 -FB

Regarding High Seas Gillnet Fishing

WHEREAS the fishing industry is Alaska's largest private employer and generates revenues that are only surpassed by the oil industry; and

WHEREAS salmon have historically been the mainstay of the fishing industry; and

WHEREAS the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 promote the conservation of Pacific salmon and reserves to United States fishermen all the harvestable surplus of fisheries resources when the surplus catch can be taken by domestic fishermen, respectively; and

WHEREAS existing domestic subsistence, personal use, sport and commercial fisheries make full utilization of Pacific salmon in inshore fisheries; and

WHEREAS a number of foreign high seas gillnet fisheries exist including (1) the Japanese salmon mothership gillnet fishery with 172 fishing vessels and the Japanese salmon land based gillnet fishery with 209 fishing vessels which are known to intercept hundreds of thousands of Pacific salmon of United States origin each year and including (2) the newly developed Japanese gillnet fishery for squid with 534 fishing vessels (which in terms of fleet days exceeds that of the mothership and land based fisheries combined) which have the potential for significant incidental catches of Pacific salmon of United States origin; and

WHEREAS there is a substantial loss to mankind of high seas caught salmon through both gillnet dropouts (estimated to be 1/3 of the catch) and loss through harvest of salmon in an immature state prior to full growth; and

WHEREAS numerous violations have been documented, especially in terms of out of area fishing by the land based gillnet vessels, which increase interpretation of salmon of United States origin;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State of Alaska and the Government of the United States take all possible actions to achieve time and area concessions from the Japanese Government and fishing industry to eliminate high seas interceptions and promote the sound conservation of Pacific salmon of United States origin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that high seas enforcement efforts be substantially increased and that salmon observer coverage occur on all of these gillnet fisheries, both within and outside the United States Fisheries Conservation Zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to.....

National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau
National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Secretary of State
Elmer Rasmussen, INPFC
Alaska Congressional Delegation
Alaska Department of Fish and
Game Commissioner


Jim Beaton, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Adopted: January 10, 1983
Juneau, Alaska