

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Resolution Title: **Reducing Bycatch and Waste in the North Pacific and Bering Sea Fisheries.**

WHEREAS, in 1992 and 1993, the North Pacific fishermen discarded as dead or dying more fish than U.S. Atlantic coast fishermen harvested in those years; and

WHEREAS, of the total groundfish catch of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska in 1993 which amounted to at least 4.6 billion pounds, discards amounted to at least 740 million pounds, or 16% of the total catch; and

WHEREAS, this bycatch in 1993 included over 370,000 salmon bound for river systems in the State of Alaska, over 16 and a half MILLION crab, 16 MILLION pounds of halibut, and over 750,000 pounds of herring; and

WHEREAS, the rippling effects of this appalling waste of our natural resources threatens the economic and cultural well-being of many Alaskan rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the minimization of bycatch waste in the fisheries of the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska is a prudent measure to provide the conservation of marine resources for future generations of subsistence, commercial, and sport fishers and hunters of marine life; and

WHEREAS, a system of economic incentives can be a viable solution to reduce the wanton bycatch and waste in the North Pacific; now

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Fisheries has as a primary goal to greatly reduce this bycatch and waste; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that minimizing bycatch must be first and foremost in any waste reduction plan. The Board of Fisheries strongly urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Congress to promote measures to minimize bycatch and waste through harvest priority incentives for clean fishing practices.

Adopted: November 14, 1994

Vote: (7/0) (Yes/No)

Location: Anchorage, AK



Larry Engel, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries