

BILL ID: HJR 15

00 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15
01 Relating to open ocean aquaculture in the federal exclusive economic zone.
02 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
03 WHEREAS Alaska wild fish stocks are healthy and sustainable, in large part due to a
04 strong gene pool and Alaska's history of sound fisheries management, clean water, and habitat
05 protection; and
06 WHEREAS Alaska commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries are managed
07 to achieve the state's constitutional mandate of sustained yield; and
08 WHEREAS the State of Alaska enacted legislation in 1990 to prohibit finfish farming
09 in state waters; and
10 WHEREAS there are numerous outstanding issues and concerns regarding the social,
11 economic, health, and environmental consequences of farmed fish, both in state and federal
12 waters; and
13 WHEREAS open net cage fish farming poses persistent risks to the health of the
14 marine resources of Alaska; and
15 WHEREAS salmon farming has had severe economic impacts on coastal
16 communities in Alaska as demonstrated by significantly lower prices for wild salmon
01 fisheries products; and
02 WHEREAS Alaska coastal communities and fishing families rely on the health of
03 wild fish stocks for a strong economy; and
04 WHEREAS global markets increasingly demand natural seafood products harvested
05 sustainably from a clean environment; and
06 WHEREAS the seafood industry in Alaska has developed strong name recognition in
07 the marketplace for wild, natural, and healthy seafood products; and
08 WHEREAS successful seafood marketing depends on product differentiation and
09 Alaska's untarnished name is its greatest asset in the global market; and
10 WHEREAS the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is promoting
11 legislation to permit open ocean aquaculture in federal waters from three to 200 miles
12 offshore of the states; and
13 WHEREAS the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
14 provides for input from fishermen and coastal communities through regional fishery
15 management councils; and
16 WHEREAS the proponents of federal open ocean aquaculture and members of the
17 ocean aquaculture industry have not satisfactorily demonstrated that this activity will not be
18 detrimental to the ocean resources and to the economy of Alaska coastal communities; and
19 WHEREAS Governor Frank H. Murkowski has proposed a five-year moratorium on
20 all permitting, leasing, or development of ocean pen-reared shellfish and finfish in the federal
21 exclusive economic zone off Alaska;
22 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature is committed to ensuring that
23 open ocean aquaculture does no harm to ecosystem integrity, to existing wild fisheries, or to
24 the social and economic well-being of Alaska coastal communities; and be it
25 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the regional
26 fishery management councils under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
27 Management Act and their involvement in any discussions or proposals regarding open ocean
28 aquaculture proposals in federal waters; and be it
29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
30 United States Congress to require any federal proposal to authorize open ocean aquaculture in
31 the federal exclusive economic zone to undergo a legislative environmental impact statement,
01 as required by law.
02 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
03 of the United States; the Honorable Ted Stevens, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate
04 and member of the Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker
05 of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Carlos Gutierrez, United States Secretary
06 of Commerce; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don
07 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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