

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI

Introduced: 2/1/17

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to mitigate the**
2 **harm done to the state's seafood industry because of the withdrawal of the United States**
3 **from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; and urging the President of the United**
4 **States and the United States Congress to work to benefit and protect the state's seafood**
5 **industry.**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 **WHEREAS** the seafood industry directly employs an estimated 26,700 state
8 residents, more workers than any other private sector industry, and is the second largest basic
9 sector source of employment in the state; and

10 **WHEREAS** seafood is the state's largest foreign export and, compared with seafood-
11 producing nations, the state's seafood exports rank sixth in value; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2014, the state's seafood industry created an estimated 111,800
13 national full-time equivalent jobs, \$5,800,000,000 in annual labor income, and
14 \$14,600,000,000 in economic output; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaska commercial fisheries exported over \$1,000,000,000 worth of

1 pollock, over \$1,000,000,000 worth of salmon, \$322,000,000 worth of cod, nearly
2 \$200,000,000 worth of flat fish, and \$141,000,000 worth of crab in 2015; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2015, certain groundfish species, including pollock, Pacific cod,
4 rockfish, sablefish, and Atka mackerel, accounted for 59 percent of the state's export tonnage
5 and 54 percent of the export value of the state's commercial fisheries; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2015, each of a dozen different species of fish from the state had
7 commercial export values in excess of \$50,000,000, and each of five more species posted
8 export values between \$10,000,000 and \$50,000,000; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state's commercial fishermen rely on strong global markets for high
10 wages; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement would have benefitted the
12 state's seafood industry by removing the import tariffs of certain foreign nations and by
13 strengthening protections for the state's seafood industry against illegal, unreported, and
14 unregulated fishing, fish fraud, and the intentional mislabeling of competing inferior seafood
15 products; and

16 **WHEREAS** the abandonment of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement will likely
17 result in foreign markets looking for cheaper farmed salmon alternatives produced in Canada,
18 Chile, Norway, and other markets in place of the more expensive wild Alaska salmon; and

19 **WHEREAS** provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement include measures
20 originating from the Presidential Task Force on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and
21 Unregulated Commercial Fishing and Seafood Fraud, which would protect the state's seafood
22 from misrepresented inferior seafood products; and

23 **WHEREAS** the state produces more wild salmon than any other nation in the world,
24 Alaska salmon is the best salmon in the world, and inferior farmed salmon from other parts of
25 the world is commonly and intentionally mislabeled as "Alaska wild salmon"; and

26 **WHEREAS** sales of Russian pollock mislabeled as Alaska pollock harm the
27 international reputation of Alaska pollock; and

28 **WHEREAS**, without a deal negotiated by the President of the United States, without
29 bilateral trade agreements, and without an internationally enforced legal regime against
30 seafood fraud, Alaska seafood products will likely be less competitive in world markets; and

31 **WHEREAS** negotiating international trade agreements is the responsibility of the

1 President of the United States; and

2 **WHEREAS** international trade agreements negotiated by the President of the United
3 States are approved by the United States Senate;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the
5 United States and the United States Congress to mitigate the harm done to the state's seafood
6 industry because of the withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the
8 United States and the United States Congress to work to establish bilateral relations and
9 enforceable agreements with other nations that will benefit and protect the state's seafood
10 industry from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and the fraudulent mislabeled
11 inferior products.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
13 of the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
14 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
15 delegation in Congress; all other members of the 115th United States Congress; and the
16 presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.