

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATOR WAGONER**

**Introduced: 3/23/11**

**Referred: Secretary's Desk**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to amend the groundfish**  
2 **fisheries management plan for the Gulf of Alaska to allow for an annually adjusted cap**  
3 **of prohibited species catch based on an abundance of bycatch species, and expeditiously**  
4 **to implement a Chinook bycatch cap to limit the number of Chinook salmon harvested**  
5 **as bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska.**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

7 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is the federal regulatory  
8 body with oversight of fisheries in federal waters; and

9 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council currently sets a fixed cap  
10 of 2,000 metric tons of halibut bycatch for a trawl fishery and 300 metric tons for a longline  
11 fishery, regardless of bycatch species abundance; and

12 **WHEREAS** the current groundfish fishery management plan for the Gulf of Alaska  
13 does not limit the number of Chinook salmon that can be taken as bycatch; and

14 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has not revised the  
15 groundfish fisheries management prohibited species catch plan for nearly two decades; and

1           **WHEREAS** Gulf of Alaska halibut populations have been steadily decreasing over  
2 the past decade; and

3           **WHEREAS** the total allowable catch for commercial and sport halibut fishermen has  
4 been adjusted to correspond with the decrease in halibut populations; and

5           **WHEREAS** the percentage of prohibited species caught has dramatically increased  
6 relative to the total allowable catch for targeted halibut sport and commercial fisheries; and

7           **WHEREAS** the 2007 and 2010 Chinook salmon incidental catch rate in the Gulf of  
8 Alaska reached historical highs of 40,320 and 51,258, respectively;

9           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate urges the North Pacific Fishery Management  
10 Council expeditiously to amend the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries management plans to  
11 allow for prohibited species catch limits based on the abundance of those species; and be it

12           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate urges the North Pacific Fishery  
13 Management Council expeditiously to implement a Chinook bycatch cap to limit the number  
14 of Chinook salmon harvested as bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska; and be it

15           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate requests the Governor to encourage his  
16 appointees to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to ensure that these matters are  
17 addressed by the council with the utmost expeditiousness.

18           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
19 the United States; the Honorable Gary F. Locke, United States Secretary of Commerce; the  
20 Honorable Cora Campbell, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game; James W. Balsiger,  
21 Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
22 Fisheries Service; Eric Olson, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and the  
23 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the  
24 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.