

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. CON. RES. 124

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding
acts of illegal aggression by Canadian fishermen
with respect to the Pacific salmon fishery, and
for other purposes.

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Whereas Pacific salmon migrate across international boundaries, allowing United States salmon stocks and Canadian salmon stocks to intermingle as they travel through the waters of the North Pacific Ocean;

Whereas after many years of negotiations, in 1985 the United States and Canada signed the Pacific Salmon Treaty

based on a primary principle of conservation and a secondary principle of equity;

Whereas the United States and Canada formed the Pacific Salmon Commission to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty;

Whereas the Pacific Salmon Commission does not regulate the Pacific salmon fishery, but provides regulatory advice and recommendations to the United States and Canada;

Whereas since the signing of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the United States and Canada have not agreed on the definition of “equity” for purposes of the principle of equity underlying the Treaty, and this disagreement has created a rift between the 2 governments and the regional stakeholders in the Pacific salmon fishery;

Whereas Pacific salmon fishery regulatory regimes have not been in place since 1994 because of a lack of agreement;

Whereas an illegal fee in violation of international agreements was assessed on United States fishermen traveling to Alaska, and neither the United States Government nor United States fishermen have been reimbursed for that fee;

Whereas since 1994, the United States and Canada have used special negotiators, a mediation process, and the current stakeholders process to attempt to resolve past disputes and negotiate annual and long-term Pacific salmon fishery regimes;

Whereas the good faith efforts of the United States in attempting to resolve differences under the Pacific Salmon Treaty have not been matched, as demonstrated in particular by the rejection of continued attempts by the United States to reach agreement and the withdrawal

from negotiations in June 1997 when an agreement seemed imminent;

Whereas Canadian fishermen have been frustrated with their own government's effort to resolve the Pacific Salmon Treaty disputes and have used the harassment of United States citizens as a way to get attention;

Whereas Canadian fishermen, in protest over the lack of an agreement regarding various issues under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, recently undertook acts of illegal aggression against United States citizens by blocking the passage of a United States vessel, and there was a failure to act quickly to end those acts; and

Whereas those acts and that failure should be condemned:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the recent acts of illegal aggression by Ca-
4 nadian fishermen with respect to the Pacific salmon
5 fishery and the slow response to those acts should be
6 condemned;

7 (2) the President should immediately take steps
8 to protect the interests of the United States with re-
9 spect to the Pacific salmon fishery and should not
10 tolerate threats to those interests;

11 (3) the President should use all necessary and
12 appropriate means to prevent any further illegal or
13 harassing actions against the United States or its

1 fishermen with respect to the Pacific salmon fishery;
2 and

3 (4) negotiations with the stakeholders' with re-
4 spect to the Pacific salmon fishery should resume in
5 good faith in the fall following the 1997 fishing sea-
6 son.

Passed the House of Representatives July 28, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.