

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 208

Encouraging the elimination of harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity in the world's commercial fishing fleet and lead to the overfishing of global fish stocks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2007

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SUNUNU, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Encouraging the elimination of harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity in the world's commercial fishing fleet and lead to the overfishing of global fish stocks.

Whereas 2.6 billion people in the world get at least 20 percent of their total dietary animal protein intake from fish;

Whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has found that 25 percent of the world's fish population are currently overexploited, depleted, or recovering from overexploitation;

Whereas scientists have estimated that populations of many large predator fish such as tuna, marlin, and

swordfish have been overfished by foreign industrial fishing fleets;

Whereas the global fishing fleet capacity is estimated to be considerably greater than is needed to catch what the ocean can sustainably produce;

Whereas the United States Congress recognized the threat of overfishing to our oceans and economy and therefore included the requirement to end overfishing in United States commercial fisheries by 2011 in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–479);

Whereas the United States Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission identified overcapitalization of the global commercial fishing fleets as a major contributor to the decline of economically important fish populations;

Whereas harmful foreign fishing subsidies encourage overcapitalization and overfishing, support destructive fishing practices that would not otherwise be economically viable, and amount to \$10 to \$15 billion annually, an amount equivalent to 20 to 25 percent of the global commercial trade in fish;

Whereas such subsidies have also been documented to support illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, which impacts commercial fisheries in the United States and around the world both economically and ecologically;

Whereas harmful fishing subsidies are concentrated in relatively few countries, putting other fishing coun-

tries, including the United States, at an economic disadvantage;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in advancing policies to eliminate harmful fishing subsidies that support overcapacity and promote overfishing; and

Whereas members of the World Trade Organization, as part of the Doha Development Agenda (Doha Development Round), are engaged in historic negotiations to end harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate,* That the United States should
- 2 continue to promote the elimination of harmful foreign
- 3 fishing subsidies that promote overcapitalization, over-
- 4 fishing, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing.

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