



S.J.RES. 17 – A joint resolution directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean

FLOOR SITUATION

S.J.Res 17 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) on August 3, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee after passing the Senate by unanimous consent on October 4, 2007. The legislation has not been considered by any House Committee.

S.J.Res 17 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 13, 2008.

SUMMARY

S.J.Res 17 resolves that the House of Representatives recognizes that:

- The United States should initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Arctic nations to negotiate an agreement or agreements for managing migratory, transboundary, and straddling fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean and establishing a new international fisheries management organization or organizations for the region;
- The agreement or agreements should conform to the requirements of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and contain mechanisms, inter alia, for establishing catch and bycatch limits, harvest allocations, observers, monitoring, data collection and reporting, enforcement, and other elements necessary for sustaining future Arctic fish stocks;
- As international fisheries agreements are negotiated and implemented, the United States should consult with the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and Alaska Native subsistence communities of the Arctic; and
- Until the agreements come into force, the United States should support international efforts to halt the expansion of commercial fishing activities in the high seas of the Arctic Ocean.

BACKGROUND

The United Nations has held several meetings on the issue of migratory fish and over fishing. This legislation encourages the United States to continue these meetings to ensure that the fishing populations of the world are properly regulated and monitored.

In the United States, the Fisheries Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has played a role in conserving and managing fish and other aquatic resources since 1871. The Fisheries Program consists of almost 800 employees nationwide, located in 64 Fishery Resource Offices, including a Conservation Genetics Laboratory, 69 National Fish Hatcheries, 9 Fish Health Centers, 7 Fish Technology Centers and a Historic National Fish Hatchery.

STAFF CONTACT



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE | CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM

1420 LONGWORTH HOB, WASHINGTON, DC 20515

www.GOP.gov

PHONE 202.225.5107

FAX 202.226.0154

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.