

Resolution on United Nations/ World Regulations of Overfishing in Our Oceans

WHEREAS, public accustomed to abundant seafood, nearly 5 billion edible pounds of seafood consumed yearly according to U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), and apathetic to plight;

WHEREAS, the demand for edible seafood has increased while the yields have declined or remained stagnate since 1989;

WHEREAS, illegal fishing and unsustainable harvesting (overfishing) plague the industry by removing wildlife from our oceans and seas at rates too high to replace themselves;

WHEREAS, “biodiversity” is declining at accelerating rates, and a study published in 2006 in the journal Science predicts all fisheries will collapse by 2048, but fisheries for many seafood species we consume have already collapsed (i.e., Orange Roughy, Chilean Sea Bass and Bluefin Tuna);

WHEREAS, with the collapse of the these populations large commercial fleets have resorted to a method called “fishing down” where these fleets are fishing in deeper waters, and upsetting the already vulnerable balance of our oceans and seas;

WHEREAS, fishing populations naturally fluctuate, but fishing rates tend to increase when populations are most vulnerable thus preventing populations from stabilizing;

WHEREAS, overfishing exacerbates the threat to vulnerable systems already plagued by habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and acidification; and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed studies have shown proper management of ocean wildlife and commercial fisheries result in ecological and economic benefits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we, the Washington State Democratic Party are urged to actively write, support and promote legislation to:

1. Increase fisheries management by implementing zones off limits to human activity, and designating other areas for recreation, research, and fishing, and implementing “fishing seasons” which will differ for each species, but will give the fish populations time to stabilize.
2. Better enforcement of laws governing catches and stock restoration (or stock enhancement). Research and management for new enhancements,

42 and reform ineffective ones. Protect the wild population from pathogens
43 and the integrity of the wild population.

44 3. Increased use of tribal and state-supported hatcheries; and
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46 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** we, the Washington State Democrats,
47 work with the legislature to write, support and promote legislation to work with local
48 and tribal governments to protect, promote and enhance natural and artificial
49 propagation of anadromous (e.g., salmon, steelhead and sturgeon) fish local and
50 reservation streams and rivers.
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53 Submitted by the Yakima County Democrats.

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55 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 17,
56 2016 meeting.
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58 The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18,
59 2016.
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