

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2010

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 18**

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**Introduced by Senators Simitian, Cedillo, Hancock, Maldonado,  
Pavley, and Price**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Chesbro, Huffman, Lieu, Monning, Nava, Ruskin, Salas, ~~and Skinner~~ *Skinner, Ammiano, Arambula, Beall, Block, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Carter, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Galgiani, Hall, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Jones, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Saldana, Swanson, Torlakson, and Torres*)

August 25, 2009

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to marine aquaculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 18, as amended, Simitian. Marine aquaculture.

This measure would request the Congress to develop a comprehensive federal regulatory framework for marine aquaculture that undergoes complete environmental review and is at least as protective as that codified in California's Sustainable Oceans Act to address environmental and economic concerns.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2009, President Barack Obama
- 2 established the federal Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force to
- 3 make recommendations for a comprehensive, integrated national
- 4 policy that addresses the use of ocean resources and ensures the

1 protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean and  
2 coastal ecosystems and resources; and

3 WHEREAS, The protection of California's spectacular  
4 1,100-mile coastline is of the utmost importance to Californians  
5 and our state's coastal and ocean-dependent industries, including  
6 commercial fishing; and

7 WHEREAS, California's ocean waters contain marine protected  
8 areas and national marine sanctuaries that have special  
9 conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural,  
10 archaeological, scientific, educational, and aesthetic qualities and  
11 are particularly sensitive to the impacts of marine aquaculture; and

12 WHEREAS, Marine aquaculture poses serious risks to  
13 California's ocean environment, including harmful interactions  
14 between escaped fish and native ecosystems; pollution from excess  
15 nutrients, waste feed, and release of drugs and chemicals;  
16 introduction and spread of disease, pathogens, and parasites to the  
17 ocean environment and marine wildlife; heightened pressure on  
18 ocean ecosystems through wild capture of forage fish for feedstuffs;  
19 threats to maritime safety and vessel navigation; potential negative  
20 public health impacts; and stress on existing commercial fisheries  
21 and coastal dependent communities; and

22 WHEREAS, Without strict protections for the natural  
23 environment, marine aquaculture has the potential to degrade the  
24 quality of our ocean water and adversely impact our wildlife and  
25 resources, including native fish and marine mammals such as the  
26 California seal and sea lion; and

27 WHEREAS, The California Sustainable Oceans Act (Chapter  
28 36 of the Statutes of 2006) creates the strongest state regulation  
29 of marine aquaculture by providing comprehensive state standards  
30 and requiring complete environmental review to guard against the  
31 risks associated with marine aquaculture; and

32 WHEREAS, Responsible marine aquaculture that includes strict  
33 and enforceable standards to protect the environment and  
34 consumers has the ability to supply consumers with safe and high  
35 quality seafood, protect the ocean from harm, and ensure the health  
36 of native fish and wildlife; and

37 WHEREAS, Permitting marine aquaculture in federal waters  
38 without a comprehensive, overarching federal regulatory  
39 framework that includes science-based standards to protect the

1 ocean could result in significant and irreversible adverse  
2 environmental consequences to coastal states; and

3 WHEREAS, The permitting of marine aquaculture in federal  
4 waters off California's coast is of special interest to the state  
5 because of the risks that marine aquaculture poses to the state's  
6 ocean ecosystems; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
8 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
9 respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States develop  
10 a comprehensive federal regulatory framework for marine  
11 aquaculture that undergoes complete environmental review and is  
12 at least as protective as that codified in California's Sustainable  
13 Oceans Act to address the many environmental and economic  
14 concerns; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
16 respectfully opposes expansion of marine aquaculture off the  
17 Pacific Coast without such a regulatory framework in place, and  
18 respectfully opposes any federal policies and legislation that would  
19 weaken California's role in marine aquaculture permitting  
20 decisions, given the threat that marine aquaculture poses to the  
21 integrity of California's coastal and ocean health, dependent  
22 tourism, and fishing economies and communities; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
24 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
25 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each  
26 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the  
27 United States, to the Secretary of Commerce, and to the  
28 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
29 Administration.