

Resolution of the Board of Game relating to the adequate funding for fish and game management and subsistence concerns.

#97-108-BOG

The Board of Game, meeting in Juneau on April 19, 1997, determines that:

WHEREAS, the Board of Game is created to conserve and develop the game resources of the state, and to adopt regulations to manage for sustained yield of these resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is further charged with finding and determining subsistence uses of the resources and adopting regulations to meet the needs for subsistence uses; and,

WHEREAS, the Board relies on information and input provided by the Division of Subsistence in determining subsistence needs; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has regulatory powers, but does not have administrative, budgeting, and fiscal powers; and,

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that adequate funding from the Legislature through the Department of Fish and Game is necessary for the Division of Subsistence to carry out its duties and responsibilities to the Board and the citizens of the state, particularly for those whom the customary and traditional use of the resource is vital; and,

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes that the reduced capability of the Division of Subsistence to provide adequate input to the Board regarding subsistence uses in turn reduces the Board's ability to make subsistence management decisions, and encourages residents to seek more federal control over game management in the state; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate is proposing a cut of 19% for FY98, which would effectively restrict or diminish the ability of the Division of Subsistence to provide the Board with essential and timely information required to make subsistence-related decisions; and,

WHEREAS, the general fund authorization for the Division of Subsistence will have been reduced 50% since 1992 with these cuts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board requests that the Joint Budget Committee of the Legislature provide full funding to the Division of Subsistence based on FY97 budget levels.

DATE: April 19, 1997

VOTE: 7 - 0


Larry Holmes, Chair
Alaska Board of Game