

RESOLUTION
JOINT BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME
98-29-JB

WHEREAS, the members of both the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries are very concerned with the lack of enforcement of the statutes and regulations concerning Alaska's fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, many of our citizens are dependent upon the fish and game resources of our State for their subsistence and personal use needs; and

WHEREAS, recreational and commercial fisheries and hunting are substantial resource based industries operating throughout the State of Alaska, employing many Alaskans and bringing significant dollars into the state from non-residents who travel to Alaska to hunt and fish; and

WHEREAS, the protection of these fish and wildlife resources of our State is absolutely essential to the well being of our citizens and the future of our state; and

WHEREAS, in comparison to the value of the resources and the percentage of the revenue derived from the uses of the State's fish and wildlife resources, the budget of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection is relatively insignificant; and

WHEREAS, there has been a substantial and proportional decline in the number of Fish and Wildlife Protection Officers both authorized and funded, simultaneously with a significant increase in resource users; and

WHEREAS, both the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game are mandated to conserve and develop the fish and wildlife resources of the State and, beyond that, are determined to do whatever they can both as Board members and as individuals to insure that these valuable resources are adequately protected under our laws and regulations; and

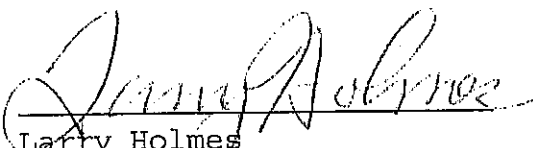
WHEREAS, as a result of the budget reductions which have occurred over time, the ability of the Division to participate in the processes of the Boards of Game and Fisheries has declined to the point where regulations proposed by these Boards are not reviewed during the course of the Boards' deliberations in order that regulations are held to a minimum, are less costly and are easily understood by the public and those charged with their enforcement.

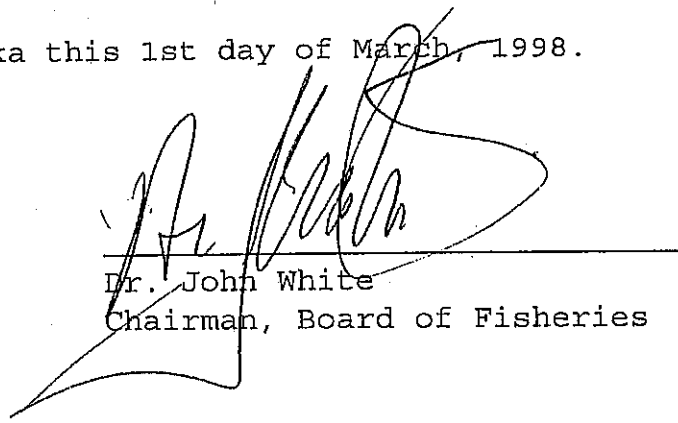
NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing statements of fact,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

1) The Legislature should fully fund the operating budget requested by the Governor on behalf of the Department of Fish Game.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 1st day of March, 1998.


Larry Holmes
Chairman, Board of Game


Dr. John White
Chairman, Board of Fisheries