

JOINT RESOLUTION

ALASKA BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME

No. 79- 7-JB

A Request for Corrective Amendments
to the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972

WHEREAS, marine mammals are ecologically significant functioning elements of coastal marine systems in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, marine mammals are of vital importance to the health and welfare of coastal settlements in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, marine mammals significantly interact with commercially important fish species, and in some areas produce serious marine mammal/fisheries conflicts; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 has imposed undesirable legal and bureaucratic constraints which prevent the implementation of sound policies of resource management required to maintain the health and stability of the marine ecosystem, has resulted in the unnecessary loss of revenue to low income families and other residents of Alaska, and has not resulted in biological benefit to the marine mammal species; and

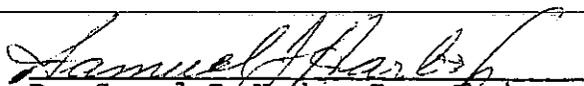
WHEREAS, except for the fur seal and the great whales, the Federal Government has demonstrated its unwillingness and inability to properly manage Alaska's marine mammal resources; and

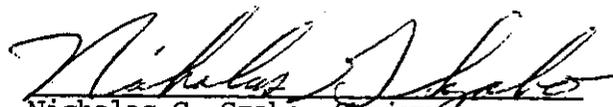
WHEREAS, it appears that the State of Alaska has exhausted all legal and administrative options available in its attempts to return management authority for nine species of coastal marine mammals to the State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the respective and joint Boards of Fisheries and Game request the Governor of Alaska and the State's Congressional delegation to seek corrective amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act which will either exempt selected species from coverage under the Act or which will effectively allow for the State of Alaska to assume management for the nine marine mammal species requested by the State.

December 2, 1979
Anchorage, Alaska


Gordon Jensen, Chairman
Boards of Fisheries and Game


Dr. Samuel J. Harbo, Jr., Chairman
Alaska Board of Game


Nicholas G. Szabo, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries