

ALASKA JOINT BOARD OF FISHERIES AND GAME
RESOLUTION #85-14-JB

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game have been delegated responsibility and authority by the Alaska Legislature to regulate the taking of fish stocks and game populations for the maximum benefit of all of the people of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, prior to the decision of the Alaska Supreme Court in Madison v. Alaska Department of Fish and Game the boards developed procedures which provided adequate regulatory flexibility, both to protect opportunities for subsistence hunting and fishing in rural communities and areas, and to provide hunting and fishing opportunities for recreational, commercial, and other uses; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear to what extent the boards may restrict subsistence harvest after the Madison ruling and as a result, substantial and significantly disruptive reallocations of opportunities to harvest fish stocks and game populations may be necessary. For example:

1. The commercial gill net fishery which is an important component of the Prince William Sound economy may need to be significantly restricted in 1985 or, eventually, even closed. Prior to the Madison decision the Board of Fisheries had adequate regulatory flexibility to accommodate both the historic commercial fishery and other users.
2. Sport fishing for king and other species of salmon on the Kenai and Naknek rivers and in the Susitna drainage may need to be significantly restricted in 1985 or, eventually, even closed. Prior to the Madison decision the Board of Fisheries had adequate regulatory flexibility to prevent that result.
3. Non-subsistence hunting, including commercial guiding activities may be significantly restricted and, in many cases, eliminated. Prior to the Madison decision the Board of Game had adequate regulatory flexibility to accommodate these users reasonably.

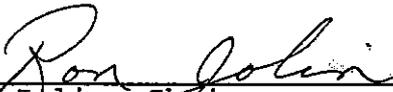
WHEREAS, prior to the Madison decision the State of Alaska was in compliance with Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). As a result of the Madison decision the federal government may now take control over game populations on public lands and fish stocks on public lands and within navigable waters; and

WHEREAS, if the State of Alaska is no longer in compliance with ANILCA, the state will lose the ongoing million dollar per year federal appropriation for the state's public participation system which is essential to the success of the state's regulatory and management activities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Board of Game strongly believe that the potential restrictions, closures, reallocations and loss of funding described above are not in the best interest of the fish and wildlife resources and the people of Alaska;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Board of Game meeting in joint session respectfully, but strongly urge the Alaska Legislature to enact legislation during the current legislative session which returns to the boards the regulatory authority and flexibility which they exercised before the Madison decision; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game have reviewed SB 231 and HB 288, the legislation introduced by the Governor to accomplish this purpose, and urge that this legislation be enacted into law as expeditiously as possible.



Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries and Game

Adopted March 26, 1985
Anchorage, Alaska
VOTE: 13/1