

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES STEVENS, Dyson, Wilson

Introduced: 4/2/01

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

- 1 **Requesting the National Marine Fisheries Service to relocate the Alaska Fisheries**
- 2 **Science Center Steller sea lion research team to Alaska.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has listed the Steller sea
5 lion as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

6 **WHEREAS** NMFS released a biological opinion on November 30, 2000, which
7 would significantly restrict the groundfish fisheries in Alaska; and

8 **WHEREAS** currently there is no clear scientific data on which to base this restriction;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** Senator Ted Stevens was successful in securing the funds needed to
11 coordinate a comprehensive research and recovery program for the western Alaska Steller sea
12 lion and to conduct an independent scientific review of the November 30, 2000, biological
13 opinion; and

14 **WHEREAS** the western United States stock of the Steller sea lion is located in waters
15 adjacent to Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** it is vital to study the recent decline of Steller sea lions in Alaska waters

1 on an ongoing basis throughout the year; and

2 **WHEREAS** the NMFS research program involved with study of the western Alaska
3 Steller sea lion is based in Seattle at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center; and

4 **WHEREAS** recent restrictions on the travel of NMFS staff have prevented key
5 personnel based in Seattle from traveling to Alaska to participate in Steller sea lion recovery
6 meetings; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is important that Alaskans who are directly affected by the status of the
8 endangered western Alaska Steller sea lion have local access to NMFS personnel conducting
9 critical sea lion research to discuss the actions necessary for sea lion recovery;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
11 National Marine Fisheries Service to relocate all portions of the Alaska Fisheries Science
12 Center associated with research on the western Alaska Steller sea lion from Seattle to a
13 facility that is located in western Alaska.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Don Evans, United States
15 Secretary of Commerce; Dr. William T. Hogarth, Acting Assistant Administrator, National
16 Marine Fisheries Service, United States Department of Commerce; and to the Honorable Ted
17 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
18 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.