



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Peggy Wilson
House District 2

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 21, 2012

To: Senator Paskvan, Resources Committee Chair and Senator Wagoner, Resources Committee Chair

From: Representative Peggy Wilson *PW*

Re: HJR 26 - Sea Otter Management

I would like to request the Senate Resources Committee schedule a hearing on HJR 26 as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation. If you need further information please contact my staff Arthur Martin at 465-5269.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:
P.O. Box 109
Wrangell, AK 99929
Phone: (907) 874-3088
Fax: (907) 874-3055



Session:
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3824
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REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 2

SPONSOR STATEMENT House Joint Resolution 26

“Urging federal agencies to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Southeast Alaska Native leaders, and other interested parties to establish strategies and plans for the sustainable management of the reintroduced sea otter population of Southeast Alaska.”

In 1965-69, sea otters were reintroduced in SE with no management plan for an eventual overabundance.

Since 1972, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the federal government who has the sole responsibility for managing has focused on a general harvesting moratorium, with few exceptions.

The 1994 Conservation Plan for the Sea Otter in Alaska states that although the optimum sustainable population range has not been numerically defined for sea otters in Alaska, the stock is believed to be within that range. That was eighteen years ago. The preface states, this plan will be reviewed annually and revised at least every three to five years.

The Southeast sea otters have flourished, with an annual growth rate of 12 percent a year in southern Southeast and four percent in northern Southeast Alaska. There is a known population of some 20,000 sea otters in Southeast. Sea otters eat approximately 23% of their body weight in crab, clams, abalone, mollusk and other dive fisheries or up to 253,000 pounds of food in a single day. According to a McDowell Report in November of 2011, they estimated that Sea Otter predation in the red sea cucumber, geoduck clam, red sea urchin, and Dungeness crab fisheries have already *cost* the Southeast Alaska economy 28.3 million dollars directly and indirectly since 1995.

With the MMPA being 40 years old, it is time to consider broadening the scope of allowable uses of sea otters in Alaska Native handicraft. A long-term sustainable management plan has to be created in regards to sea otter populations, in order to facilitate the means by which all Southeast Alaska people can share in a more robust sport, subsistence, and economic base.

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REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON HOUSE DISTRICT 2

HJR 26 Sea Otter Management

To: Senate Resources Committee

Date: 3/20/12

Explanation of Changes

- The CS from Resources clarified the sale and use of sea otters pelts by suggesting that the Marine Mammal Protection Act definition of handicrafts be changed to read, "Alaska native articles of handicraft."
- CS from the House Floor added two clarifying whereas clause regarding the Marine Mammal Protection Act and investment in fisheries resources.

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26(RES) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 3/19/12

Offered: 2/15/12

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES PEGGY WILSON, Thomas, Austerman, Dick

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging federal agencies to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,**
2 **Southeast Alaska Native leaders, and other interested parties to establish strategies and**
3 **plans for the sustainable management of the reintroduced sea otter population of**
4 **Southeast Alaska.**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, in the late 1960s, in the absence of a long-term management plan, the
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game reintroduced approximately 400 sea otters to nearshore
8 waters in six different locations around Southeast Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS**, without proper management, the sea otter population in southern
10 Southeast Alaska has grown at an alarming rate; and

11 **WHEREAS** more than 10,560 sea otters were observed in 2003, and a 2010-2011
12 aerial survey by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service revealed 20,000 sea otters, for an
13 approximate annual growth rate of 12 percent in southern Southeast Alaska and four percent
14 in northern Southeast Alaska; and

15 **WHEREAS** the federal government, which has responsibility for managing sea otter

1 populations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, has not established an
 2 effective management plan for protecting the ecosystems affected by sea otters; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1994, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued the
 4 "Conservation Plan for the Sea Otter in Alaska," which stated that, while the optimum
 5 sustainable population range had not been numerically defined for sea otters in Alaska, the
 6 stock was believed to be in the optimum sustainable population range; and

7 **WHEREAS** the preface to the 1994 plan states that the plan "will be reviewed
 8 annually and revised at least every three to five years"; and

9 **WHEREAS** male sea otters in Alaska can weigh up to 100 pounds and average
 10 between 60 and 85 pounds, and large females can weigh up to 72 pounds and average
 11 between 35 and 60 pounds; and

12 **WHEREAS** unmanaged high numbers of reintroduced sea otters consume up to 23
 13 percent of their body weight each day of crab, abalone, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, clams,
 14 and other shellfish that the region's human residents rely on for subsistence and commercial
 15 uses and appear to be contributing to degradation of the ecological balance in many areas,
 16 leading to diminished human harvests of those important subsistence and commercial
 17 resources; and

18 **WHEREAS** the dramatically increasing and currently high number of reintroduced
 19 sea otters has, in some areas, depleted shellfish stocks to a degree that subsistence, personal
 20 use, sport, and commercial fishing have been halted because of unsustainable lack of
 21 abundance; and

22 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska, on behalf of its residents, has invested large
 23 quantities of time and money in developing fisheries resources that are now being consumed
 24 by sea otters; and

25 **WHEREAS** many residents in the state's coastal communities directly or indirectly
 26 depend on the fishery resources of the state's coastal waters; and

27 **WHEREAS** money derived from the harvest of the state's sustainably managed
 28 aquatic resources forms a major component of the economies of the state's coastal
 29 communities, causing those communities to be particularly vulnerable to situations that
 30 negatively affect yields from local resources; and

31 **WHEREAS** Southeast Alaska's municipalities, towns, and villages face substantial

1 challenges in developing broader economic opportunities for their residents; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 removed marine mammals
3 from the State of Alaska's management, denying Alaska residents and most Americans the
4 opportunity to harvest marine mammals, even if the denial places animal populations,
5 ecosystems, and the State of Alaska's economy at risk; and

6 **WHEREAS** Southeast Alaska's indigenous inhabitants have hunted sea otters since
7 time immemorial; and

8 **WHEREAS**, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the regulations
9 adopted under the Act, Alaska Natives are limited to selling only "authentic" and "traditional"
10 Native handicrafts; and

11 **WHEREAS** sec. 101 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 provides for
12 exemptions for Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals, as long as the taking is for
13 subsistence purposes and not accomplished in a wasteful manner; and

14 **WHEREAS** sec. 101 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 allows for the
15 use of marine mammal pelts for authentic Native articles, including handicrafts and clothing;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, sale of value-added
18 fur products is allowed in both intrastate and interstate commerce; and

19 **WHEREAS** the state serves as a model for the management of harvestable resources
20 for sustained yield and sustainable use; and

21 **WHEREAS** implementation of a sustainable harvest management regime for sea
22 otters will serve the dual purposes of maintaining sea otter populations at a level suitable for
23 continued ecological balance and expanding economic opportunity; and

24 **WHEREAS** sec. 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 allows the
25 United States Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with Alaska
26 Native organizations for the conservation of marine mammals and the development of marine
27 mammal cooperative management structures with federal and state agencies, including the
28 creation of local management plans for the harvest of marine mammals for subsistence use;

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
30 Secretary of the Interior and appropriate federal agencies to work with the Alaska Department
31 of Fish and Game, Southeast Alaska's Native leaders, and other interested parties in the state

1 to establish strategies and plans for sustainable management of the reintroduced sea otter
2 population of Southeast Alaska; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges state and federal
4 government authorities, in developing those management plans, actively to consider means of
5 expanding and enhancing small business and broader economic opportunities for residents of
6 Southeast Alaska; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges federal authorities
8 to consider broadening the scope of allowable uses for sea otters taken for subsistence
9 purposes by replacing the references to "authentic" and "traditional" handicrafts in the Marine
10 Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the regulations adopted under the Act with the phrase
11 "Alaska Native articles of handicraft" and continuing the sale of sea otter pelts consistent with
12 all other provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States
14 Secretary of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich,
15 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
16 delegation in Congress.

2-7-12

House Resource Committee:
Re: House Initiative Resolution 26

House Resource Committee,

First I would like to start by applauding Rep. Peggy Wilson for getting something on the table. My name is Frank W. Neidiffer, my background information begins with logging in S.E. Alaska in the 70's. In the mid 80's I started commercial fishing, trolling, crabbing, and long lining. For the last 25 years I have spent a substantial amount of time in lower Chatam, Sumner, and Fredrick Sound. I would like to testify to the "march of the otter" and their scorched earth policy they adhere to.

It's well past time to take action. I do believe Proposition 26 is a start. I think it's very important to revisit the M.M.P.A., and read our Alaska State Constitution. Please make note that we have a viable resource that is destroying resources along with lifestyles and employment opportunities, which also affects the Alaska State economy. Thank You for your time.

Frank W. Neidiffer
518-0188

Frank Neidiffer

Box 1746

PSG. AK 99833

neidiffer@qci.net

From: Eric Riemer [<mailto:torsch2@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:32 AM

To: Rep. Peggy Wilson

Subject: Sea Otter Legislation

Dear Representative Wilson,

Thank you for your recent support of Alaska's dive fisherman and Native artists in the matter of sea otter predation. As a fisherman and environmentalist, it is important to me to see a healthy management plan in place for the control of the southeast sea otter population: if left unchecked, these beasts will ravage the healthy shellfish populations of southeast. However, there is always a place in the ecosystem for a healthy predator population; after all, a thriving predator population equates to a healthy biomass of consumable product.

It's my belief that in the days of yore (i.e. before the aggressive hunting of the sea otter by Russians for their pelts) there had to have been a balance between the otter and their foodstocks. In the more recent vacuum left by the absence of otters, shellfish stocks increased exponentially, leading to the development of a valuable commercially sustainable resource. The reintroduction of the sea otter predator in the past twenty years has virtually given them an all-you-can-eat buffet, and they aren't interested in leaving the table, or saving some for later.

If we do nothing to cull the sea otter population, they will literally eat themselves out of house and home: the population will continue to explode and soon there will be more otters than the stocks can support, leading to a population crash. It has happened before with other predator species, such as wolves. By introducing legislation that checks unmanageable otter population growth, you are not only preserving the valuable commercial resource, but also practicing responsible environmental stewardship and securing jobs for fisherman and Native artists alike.

It seems the most likely avenue of success in this situation is the loosening of restrictions on Native artists that harvest the animal and use its pelt for their wares. This would be a responsible and productive first step in the management of the sea otter population.

Again, many thanks for your support on this matter!

Sincerely,

Eric Riemer

Commercial Fisherman and Harvest Diver

From: cornelis@comcast.net [mailto:cornelis@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:08 AM

To: Rep. Peggy Wilson

Subject: Sea Otter Bill

Thank you for this bill. This is an issue that shouldn't be an issue. But, the Federal Government's refusal to allow any reasonable management plan for otters and the potentially disastrous effect on SouthEast shellfish fisheries with the subsequent negative economic effects on our communities is unbelievable. I am tired of being a Washington DC social experiment. The State of Alaska should be able to manage otters like any other wild animal. We should be able to take into account the otters overall effects on the environment, fisheries and communities as part of an overall resource management plan. It is obvious that the Federal managers are biased towards the otter and against SE residents given their recent stance on even something as basic as Native and subsistence rights of use. Alaska's economic well being should not be held hostage by this small group of bureaucrats. This issue is about our rights as Alaskans to our resources vs. Federal Agencies establishing a policy of dictating our natural resources use to us. Thank you again for this bill.

Cornelis Bakker
POB 5253
Ketchikan, AK 99901

From: tokeencove@gmail.com [mailto:tokeencove@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Eric Wyatt

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:30 AM

To: Rep. Peggy Wilson

Subject: Sea Otter Management Resolution

Dear Rep. Wilson:

Thank you for your efforts vis-a-vis our sea otter problem. The "little critters" have demolished our little neck clam beds.

Let me assure you that the reports of sea otter destruction are not hyperbole. I see what they are doing on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Eric R Wyatt
President - Alaska Oyster Cooperative



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

February 2, 2012

Representative Paul Seaton, Co-Chair
Representative Eric Feige, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th St, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support for HJR 26 regarding Re-introduced Sea Otters

Dear Co-Chairmen Seaton & Feige, and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. Fishermen in Southeast Alaska and UFA member groups for years have been alarmed by the rapid increase in sea otter populations, and noticeable impacts on shellfish and fishery resources throughout the region.

In 2009, UFA unanimously adopted Resolution 2009-1 (attached) supporting:

- research on sea otter populations and their effects;
- decreasing hurdles to Alaska Natives in their utilization of this resource;
- requesting the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game to become more actively involved with USFWS in the management of sea otters and documenting their effect.
- requesting the Federal and State agencies, Tribal community organizations and other entities affected by sea otters in the area to meet regionally and develop ecosystem-based sea otter management plans benefiting all users of these resources and protecting the fishery resources from depletion by sea otters, and providing for access to resources in areas of sea otter depletion.

This December, the McDowell Group released a report sponsored by UFA member group Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA), titled Sea Otter Impacts on Commercial Fisheries in Southeast Alaska, which can be found online at:

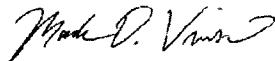
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/74857876/MCDOWELL-GROUP-2011-Sea-Otter-Impacts-Report>

This report estimates a direct loss of \$12.8 million in ex-vessel value, and \$22.4 million in first wholesale value to the Southeast Alaska economy attributable to increased sea otter

populations since 1995. This represents a significant number of jobs lost in communities that already face very challenging circumstances.

UFA commends the bill's sponsors for drawing attention to this issue where the currently popular term of "ecosystem based management" should be applied through management strategies to address this predatory element that is well known to be "out of balance." We also commend the sponsors for calling for broadening the scope of allowable uses for sea otters taken by subsistence users.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and your support of HJR 26.



Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

Attachment

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association
Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Crab Group of Independent Harvesters • Douglas Island Pink and Chum
Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance
Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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Resolution 2009-1

SEA OTTER RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) represent commercial fishermen organizations and individual fishermen involved in fisheries throughout Alaska in both state and federal waters; and

WHEREAS, sea otters are abundantly healthy and impacting important commercial, subsistence and personal use fishery resource such as crab, abalone, sea cucumbers, sea urchins and geoduck clams in some areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, sea otters are depressed in other areas of the State and critical habitat designation may affect fishery infrastructure and coastal development; and

WHEREAS, sea otters are protected by the federal government under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); and

WHEREAS, the only allowable use of sea otters under the MMPA is by coastal Alaska Natives for subsistence or for the making of handicrafts by Alaskan Natives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, UFA supports appropriate local collaborative research projects and grant funding for sea otters whether the population is increasing or declining; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, UFA supports management strategies which will decrease hurdles to Alaska Natives in their utilization of this resource; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, UFA request that the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game become more actively involved with USFWS in the management of sea otters and documenting their effect within a region on fishery resources; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, UFA requests the Federal and State agencies, Tribal community organizations and other entities affected by sea otters in the area to meet regionally and develop ecosystem-based sea otter management plans benefiting all users of these resources and protecting the fishery resources from depletion by sea otters and providing for access to resources in areas of sea otter depletion.

By UFA Board of Directors, November 18, 2009:

Joe Childers, UFA President

Attest: Mark D. Vinsel, UFA Executive Director



*Grand Camp
Alaska Native Brotherhood*

RESOLUTION #29-09

Title: Sea Otter Management

WHEREAS, tribal residents of Southeast Alaska have hunted for sea otters since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Section 119 of the US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) allows for tribally authorized local harvest management plans with US Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, tribal residents of Southeast, Alaska have reported diminished harvest of important traditional foods such abalone, crab, clams and other foods that are consumed by sea otters; and

WHEREAS, due to depressed rural economies, local tribal governments and tribal entities must continue to face the responsibility of developing economic opportunities such as value added fur products in a manner consistent with our uses of marine mammals since time immemorial; and

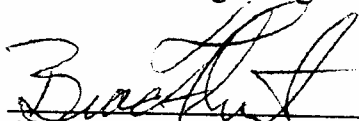
WHEREAS, with education regarding the traditional hunting practices coupled with the entry into co-management with the Federal government a balance could be achieved between healthy sea otter populations and the availability of healthy traditional foods for residents of Southeast, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, recent Federal enforcement actions have highlighted a need for education and outreach to provide clear and consistent guidance to tribal hunters and artists regarding federal regulations governing the take and use of sea otter; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Marine Mammal Commission spent many years planning for the establishment of a tannery in Sitka, Alaska which has now been in operation for five years, providing for full-utilization of marine mammals and other animals hunted for food so that artists would be able to use those skins to create handicrafts that could be sold to create additional economic opportunities in our community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood's Grand Camp increased education, outreach regarding Federal regulations governing the take and use of sea otter and support in developing local harvest management plans and small business opportunities for tribal residents of Southeast Alaska.

NOW THEREOFRE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Alaska Native Brotherhood's Grand Camp respectfully requests a region-wide meeting with the US Fish and Wildlife, representation from Southeast tribal communities, USDA Rural Development, and the US Economic Development Administration address the concerns regarding sea otter management as outlined in this resolution.



ANB Grand President



ANS Grand President

ATTEST: I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB/ANS Grand Camp in convention at Juneau, Alaska, during the week of October 6-10, 2009.



ANB Grand Secretary

CITY OF PETERSBURG, ALASKA

RESOLUTION # 1958

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MANAGING THE SEA OTTER POPULATION AND FIND WAYS TO REVIVE LOST ECONOMIES DUE TO THE RELOCATION AND RE-COLONIZATION OF SEA OTTERS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

WHEREAS, the City of Petersburg, Alaska is a small island fishing community located in Southeast Alaska with a population of approximately 3,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Petersburg community are dependent on abundant, sustainable resources from the coastal waters of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960's the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reintroduced approximately 400 sea otters in six different locations to near shore waters of Southeast Alaska with no management plan; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has jurisdiction under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and has no active management plan protecting the ecosystems affected by sea otters; and

WHEREAS, without proper management, the sea otter population in southern Southeast Alaska is growing at an alarming rate (5,000 observed in 2003 and a 2010 aerial survey by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service revealed an estimate of over 10,000 otters); and

WHEREAS, this drastic increase in sea otters is threatening the population of many shellfish species, such as crab, abalone, urchins, sea cucumbers, geoducks and others, to a point that subsistence, sport and commercial fishing has been stopped in many areas due to the low abundance; and

WHEREAS, a degradation in the ecological balance of a diversity of species has taken place in many areas; and

WHEREAS, residents of Petersburg and many other communities throughout Southeast Alaska rely on shellfish not only for their livelihood, but for survival in a subsistence way of life; and

WHEREAS, the loss of commercial harvests have resulted in negative economic impacts to the seafood industry. Fisherman, processors and seafood dependent communities have experienced a loss in employment wages and associated economic activities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg City Council requests that State and Federal agencies work with tribal leaders in Southeast Alaska to become more actively involved in management of the sea otter population and look to remedy the problems already created.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the State and Federal government managing authorities are requested to find ways to revive the lost economies from the Southeast Alaska region due to the relocation and re-colonization of sea otters in southern Southeast Alaska

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Alaska this 18th day of January, 2011.

A copy of this Resolution is to be sent to our Federal Legislators; the Southeast Alaska State Senators and Representatives; State and Federal Wild Life Agencies; and the Coastal Communities of Southeast.



Al Dwyer, Mayor

ATTEST;



Kathy O'Rear, City Clerk

resolved

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 02-11-1217

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, REQUESTING THAT STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MANAGING THE SEA OTTER POPULATION AND FIND WAYS TO REVIVE LOST ECONOMIES DUE TO THE RELOCATION AND RE-COLONIZATION OF SEA OTTERS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska is a small island fishing community located in Southeast Alaska with a population of approximately 2,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Wrangell community are dependent on abundant, sustainable resources from the coastal waters of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in the last 1960's the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reintroduced approximately 400 sea otters in six different locations to near shore waters of Southeast Alaska with no management plan; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has jurisdiction under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and has to active management plan protecting the ecosystems affected by sea otters; and

WHEREAS, without proper management, the sea otter population in southern Southeast Alaska is growing at an alarming rate (5,000 observed in 2003 and a 2010 aerial survey by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service revealed an estimate of over 10,000 otters); and

WHEREAS, this drastic increase in sea otters is threatening the population of many shellfish species, such as crab, abalone, urchins, sea cucumbers, geoducks and others, to a point that subsistence, sport and commercial fishing has been stopped in many areas due to the low abundance; and

WHEREAS, a degradation in the ecological balance of a diversity of species has taken place in many areas; and

WHEREAS, residents of Wrangell and many other communities throughout Southeast Alaska rely on shellfish not only for their livelihood, but for survival in a subsistence way of life; and

WHEREAS, the loss of commercial harvests have resulted in negative economic impacts to the seafood industry. Fisherman, processors and seafood dependent communities have experienced a loss in employment wages and associated economic activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, requests that State and Federal agencies work with tribal leaders in Southeast Alaska to become more actively involved in management of the sea otter population and look to remedy the problems already created.

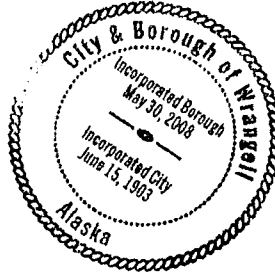
LET IT BE RESOLVED FURTHER, the State and Federal government managing authorities are requested to find ways to revive the lost economies from the Southeast Alaska region due to the relocation and re-colonization of sea otters in southern Southeast Alaska.

ADOPTED: February 8, 2011.

A copy of this Resolution is to be sent to our Federal Legislators; the Southeast Alaska State Senators and Representatives; State and Federal Wild Life Agencies; and the Coastal Communities of Southeast.


Jeremy Maxand, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Christie L. Jamieson, Borough Clerk



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2313

A Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Requesting that State and Federal Authorities Become More Actively Involved in Managing the Sea Otter Population and Find Ways to Revive Lost Economies Due to the Relocation and Re-Colonization of Sea Otters in Southeast Alaska; and Providing for an Effective Date

RECITALS

- A. **WHEREAS**, the community of Ketchikan, Alaska is a coastal island located in Southeast Alaska with a population of approximately 13,000 citizens; and
- B. **WHEREAS**, residents of the community of Ketchikan are dependent on abundant, sustainable resources from the coastal waters of Southeast Alaska; and
- C. **WHEREAS**, in the late 1960's the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reintroduced approximately 400 sea otters in six different locations to near shore waters of Southeast Alaska with no management plan; and
- D. **WHEREAS**, the federal government has jurisdiction under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and has no active management plan protecting the ecosystems affected by sea otters; and
- E. **WHEREAS**, without proper management, the sea otter population in southern Southeast Alaska is growing at an alarming rate (5,000 observed in 2003 and a 2010 aerial survey by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service revealed an estimate of over 10,000 otters); and
- F. **WHEREAS**, a degradation in the ecological balance of a diversity of species has taken place in many areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH as follows:

Section 1. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly requests that State and Federal agencies work with tribal leaders in Southeast Alaska to become more actively involved in management of the sea otter population and look to remedy the problems already created.

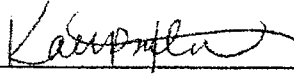
Section 2. State and Federal government managing authorities are requested to find ways to revive the lost economies from the Southeast Alaska region due to the relocation and re-colonization of sea otters in southern Southeast Alaska.

Section 3. This resolution is effective immediately.

ADOPTED this 28th day of February, 2011.

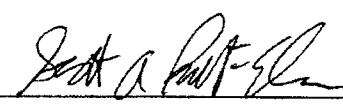


Dave Kiffer, Borough Mayor



Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott A. Brandt-Erichsen, Borough Attorney

EFFECTIVE DATE:		FEBRUARY 28, 2011		
ROLL CALL	YES	NO	ABSENT	
Bailey	✓			
Harrington	✓			
Moran			✓	
Phillips	✓			
Rotecki	✓			
Salazar			✓	
Shoemaker	✓			
Mayor (tie votes only)				
4 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE				

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HJR 26
 Fiscal Note Number _____
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) HJR26-LEG-COU-1-26-12 Dept. Affected Legislature
 Title "Urging federal agencies to work with the ADFG, etc Appropriation Legislative Council
for sustainable mgmt of the reintroduced sea otter..." Allocation Council and Subcommittees
 Sponsor Reps Peggy Wilson, Thomas, and Austerman
 Requester House Resources OMB Component Number 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY13	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)							
1002	Federal Receipts						
1003	GF Match						
1004	GF						
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)						
1037	GF/MH (UGF)						
1178	temp code (UGF)						
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES							
--------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial Version

Prepared by Jessica Geary, Finance Manager
 Division Legislative Affairs Agency
 Approved by Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626
 Date/Time 1/26/12 1:11 PM
 Date 1/26/2012

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR 26

Analysis

This Legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HJR 26
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2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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