

Original sponsor: Rules Committee by request  
of the Legislative Council (for the Interim  
Committee on Subsistence Hunting and Fishing)

Offered: 3/29/78  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON SUBSISTENCE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48 am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to legalizing hunting of migra-  
6 tory birds in the springtime.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS hunting of migratory game birds in the spring is prohibited by  
9 the terms of the conventions concluded between the United States and Great  
10 Britain for the protection of migratory birds on August 16, 1916; between the  
11 United States and the United Mexican States for the protection of migratory  
12 birds and game mammals on February 7, 1936; and between the United States and  
13 the Government of Japan for the protection of migratory birds in danger of  
14 extinction and their environment, on March 4, 1972; and

15 WHEREAS many residents of Alaska must rely on wildlife for food;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS the nutritional value of migratory game birds to the rural  
18 residents of Alaska is of particular significance in the springtime due to  
19 the depletion of winter food stocks and because spring thawing conditions  
20 make equivalent substitutes commercially unavailable; and

21 WHEREAS many otherwise law-abiding citizens have been forced to resort  
22 to illegal hunting to provide for the health and well-being of their fami-  
23 lies; and

24 WHEREAS the United States and the Soviet Union have completed negotia-  
25 tions on a treaty, now before the Senate for ratification, which leaves  
26 authority to establish those closed seasons necessary for the preservation of  
27 migratory bird stocks to the appropriate authorities in the respective  
28 nations, with provision that if the need arises special agreements may be  
29 negotiated with regard to conservation or hunting of particular species;

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it requests the  
2 President of the United States to direct the Department of State to amend  
3 existing treaties to conform to the approach taken in the recent U.S-U.S.S.R.  
4 treaty, thereby allowing residents of Alaska to hunt migratory game birds in  
5 the springtime if found consistent with the conservation of migratory game  
6 bird stocks by fish and game officials.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,  
8 President of the United States; the Honorable Cyrus Vance, Secretary of the  
9 Department of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike  
10 Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
11 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.