

Introduced: 1/24/78
Referred: The Special Committee
on Subsistence and Resources

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL (for the Interim
Committee on Subsistence
Hunting and Fishing)

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Endorsing the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commis-
6 sion Management Plan and urging its full
7 support before the International Whaling
8 Commission.

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

10 WHEREAS in December, 1977 the International Whaling Commission estab-
11 lished a quota for Eskimo subsistence whalers in 1978, allowing whalers to
12 "strike" no more than 18 bowhead whales and "land" no more than 12; and

13 WHEREAS this quota, based on inadequate scientific information, fails to
14 satisfy the subsistence needs of the Inupiat Eskimos, and endangers a neces-
15 sary tradition of their 6,000 year-old culture; and

16 WHEREAS no substantial effort was made by the United States to adopt a
17 local management plan prepared by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission as its
18 official position after such a plan had been requested; and

19 WHEREAS this management plan provides, among other things,

20 (1) a comprehensive regulatory scheme that limits the level of
21 harvest to the carrying capacity of the stock as supported by data developed
22 by a Scientific Committee appointed by the Polar Research Board of the Na-
23 tional Academy of Sciences;

24 (2) registration and harvest or attempted harvest provisions by
25 all whaling captains;

26 (3) the requirement that only traditional hunting methods be used;

27 and

28 (4) severe penalties for regulatory violations; and

29 WHEREAS the establishment of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Plan demonstrates

1 the concern of the Eskimo for adequate regulation and maintenance of the
2 bowhead whale, and places the responsibility for management in the hands of
3 those persons who have the greatest experience and knowledge about the re-
4 source;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the
6 adoption of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Management Plan as the
7 official position of the United States before the International Whaling
8 Commission, and urges full support of this position by the United States
9 delegation at the Commission's next meeting.

10 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
11 President of the United States; the Honorable Cyrus Vance, Secretary of
12 State; the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior; the Honor-
13 able Juanita Kreps, Secretary of Commerce; Mr. Robert M. White, Administrator,
14 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and
15 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators,
16 and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska
17 delegation in Congress.