

Introduced: 1/26/78
Referred: The Special Committee
on Subsistence and Resources

BY BUCHHOLDT, SCHAEFFER AND
NAKAK

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 55

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the conservation of bow-
6 head whales.

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

8 WHEREAS the United States is a signatory to the International Whaling
9 Convention of December 2, 1946 which established the International Whaling
10 Commission; and

11 WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission has limited the harvest of
12 bowhead whales by subsistence whalers who live on Alaska's arctic coasts to
13 only 12 whales in 1978; and

14 WHEREAS Alaska's subsistence whalers have responded to national concern
15 over the harvest of bowhead whales by organizing the Alaska Eskimo Whaling
16 Commission to cooperate with the United States Government in the conservation
17 and management of the bowhead whale; and

18 WHEREAS the entire subsistence bowhead whaling controversy has revealed
19 a lack of knowledge about the numbers and welfare of the bowhead whale
20 throughout its range; and

21 WHEREAS research on the numbers and welfare of the bowhead whale must
22 have the highest priority in order to assure successful conservation and
23 management of the bowhead whale;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
25 the Secretary of Commerce to allocate adequate funding to a comprehensive
26 long-term research program on the status of bowhead as well as all other
27 arctic whales; and be it

28 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Commerce is respectfully re-
29 quested to cooperate with the State of Alaska and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling

1 Commission in the management of the bowhead whale conservation program,
2 including the enforcement of the bowhead whale harvest quota.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Juanita Kreps,
4 Secretary of Commerce; to Jacob Adams, Chairman, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commis-
5 sion; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S.
6 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the
7 Alaska delegation in Congress.

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