

Offered: 3/21/84
Referred: Rules

Original sponsors: V. Fischer, Rodey,
Halford, et al

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 31 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to the capture of orcas in
6 Alaska waters.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS the State of Alaska and its people have an abiding interest in
9 the wildlife of the state; and
10 WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service has issued to Sea World,
11 Inc., a permit to capture 100 orcas (killer whales) in Alaska waters and to
12 retain 10 of the orcas for breeding and public display; and
13 WHEREAS the granting of a permit for the capture of orcas in Alaska is
14 a major federal action resulting in a significant environmental impact on
15 the State of Alaska; and
16 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has been engaged in discussions with Sea
17 World, Inc., concerning the issuance of a state permit that would condition
18 the capture of orcas on (1) performance of certain investigations prior to
19 capture, (2) compliance with conditions regulating the locations, methods,
20 times and other aspects of capture, (3) providing for observers to be
21 stationed aboard vessels used for captures, and (4) providing for the
22 reimbursement of certain costs that may be incurred by the state as a
23 result of capture activities; and
24 WHEREAS, during testimony given before the Alaska Legislature and in
25 negotiations with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sea World, Inc.,
26 agreed to abide by state decisions with respect to the taking of orcas, but
27 subsequently has denied making such commitments and has stated its inten-
28 tion to ignore the wishes of the State of Alaska and its people; and
29 WHEREAS Alaskans have testified overwhelmingly against the capture and

1 removal of orcas from Alaska waters;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State legislature that the Congress of
3 the United States is requested to (1) prohibit the taking of orcas in
4 Alaska waters; or (2) require that the capture of orcas in Alaska waters be
5 carried out only after public hearings and an environmental impact state-
6 ment are conducted in Alaska by the National Marine Fisheries Service and
7 only in accordance with conditions of capture established by the State of
8 Alaska; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Marine Fisheries Service is re-
10 quested to (1) suspend the permit issued to Sea World, Inc., for the cap-
11 ture of orcas in Alaska waters until an environmental impact statement is
12 completed; or (2) require that Sea World, Inc., abide by conditions of
13 capture to be established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and be
14 it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor of Alaska is respectfully requested
16 to (1) vigorously pursue implementation of this resolution; and (2) act
17 firmly to prevent illegal or unauthorized interference with or harassment
18 of orcas in Alaska waters.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
20 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
21 Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives;
22 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
23 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
24 Alaska delegation in Congress; William G. Gordon, assistant administrator
25 for fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service; and the Honorable Bill
26 Sheffield, Governor of Alaska.