

Offered: 4/11/84

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

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31 (Rules)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the capture of orcas in

6

Alaska waters.

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

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WHEREAS the State of Alaska and its people have an abiding interest in
9 the wildlife of the state; and

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WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service has, without having
11 conducted a public hearing in Alaska, issued to Sea World, Inc., a permit
12 to capture 100 orcas (killer whales) in Alaska waters and to retain 10 of
13 the orcas for breeding and public display; and

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WHEREAS the granting of a permit for the capture of orcas in Alaska is
15 a major federal action resulting in a significant environmental impact on
16 the State of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the State of Alaska has been engaged in discussions with Sea
18 World, Inc., concerning the issuance of a state permit that would condition
19 the capture of orcas on (1) performance of certain investigations prior to
20 capture, (2) compliance with conditions regulating the locations, methods,
21 times and other aspects of capture, (3) providing for observers to be
22 stationed aboard vessels used for captures, and (4) providing for the
23 reimbursement of certain costs that may be incurred by the state as a
24 result of capture activities; and

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WHEREAS Alaskans have testified overwhelmingly against the capture and
26 removal of orcas from Alaska waters;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State legislature that the Congress of
28 the United States is requested to (1) prohibit the taking of orcas in
29 Alaska waters; or (2) require that the capture of orcas in Alaska waters be

1 carried out only after public hearings are conducted in Alaska by the
2 National Marine Fisheries Service and only in accordance with conditions of
3 capture established by the State of Alaska; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Marine Fisheries Service is re-
5 quested to (1) suspend the permit issued to Sea World, Inc., for the cap-
6 ture of orcas in Alaska waters; or (2) require that Sea World, Inc., abide
7 by conditions of capture to be established by the Alaska Department of Fish
8 and Game; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of Alaska is respectfully requested
10 to (1) oppose the taking of orcas in Alaska waters; or (2) require that any
11 permittee abide by conditions set by the Alaska Department of Fish and
12 Game, including methods, means, time, place, population studies, and other
13 conditions of capture of orcas in Alaska waters; and be it

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

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