

SJR

14

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

FOUCHY - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1986

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS date base CM 14. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Jeanie Henry

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE, 2/25/85, 1:35

MZU
2/25/85

I just talked to David Olsen, Deputy Regional Director for the Fish and Wildlife Service. He has met this morning with representatives of Shumagin Corp. They agreed to the following points:

- 1) Fish and Wildlife will delay any action until March 18th.
- 2) In that interim the people of Sand Point will spread the word of the cattle's availability.
- 3) On March 18, Fish and Wildlife will institute a "culling" operation, killing the old cattle. They will leave at least 90 head of the best stock on the island.
- 4) On August 15, when a barge is available, Fish and Wildlife will assist in moving the remaining cattle to Unga island.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE

HOUSE

JUNEAU, ALASKA March 6, 1985

MR. PRESIDENT:

The House has passed SJR 14am (Urging the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to postpone the proposed cattle slaughter on Simeonof Island) with the following amendment:

HCS SJR 14(Res), same title

and ~~it is transmitted~~ for consideration.

returned

Concur - ?

2/27/85

19-0

Israel Daken

CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Offered: 3/6/85
For Today's Calendar

Original sponsor: Zharoff

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Urging the United States Fish and Wild-
6 life Service to postpone the proposed
7 cattle slaughter on Simeonof Island.

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

9 WHEREAS cattle have been on Simeonof Island since 1894; and

10 WHEREAS the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that
11 it plans to kill the cattle on this island; and

12 WHEREAS the people in the communities near Simeonof Island are suffer-
13 ing difficult economic times due to the decline of the fishery stocks; and

14 WHEREAS the people in the communities near Simeonof Island have used
15 the cattle on Simeonof Island as a supplemental food source in the past,
16 and would like to continue to do so in the future; and

17 WHEREAS there are cattle holding pens and loading chutes on Simeonof
18 Island to facilitate removal of the cattle; and

19 WHEREAS the Shumagin Village Corporation desires to transplant the
20 cattle from Simeonof Island to Unga Island, but the Shumagin Village Corpo-
21 ration may require until September 1985 in order to do so; and

22 WHEREAS the slaughter of the cattle would constitute a waste of thou-
23 sands of pounds of beef that could be used by needy Alaskans in the immedi-
24 ate area; and

25 WHEREAS the elimination of the cattle will be very expensive; and

26 WHEREAS the cost of the destruction of the cattle could be used to
27 better advantage to help the Shumagin Village Corporation transplant the
28 cattle to Unga Island;

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully

1 urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to postpone its ultimate
2 termination action related to the cattle until at least October 1985; and
3 be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully urges the United
5 States Fish and Wildlife Service to assist the Shumagin Village Corporation
6 in its effort to transplant the Simeonof Island cattle to Unga Island; and
7 be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska
9 delegation in Congress to ensure that the United States Fish and Wildlife
10 Service postpones the cattle slaughter on Simeonof Island until at least
11 October 1985.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
13 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Donald Hodel, Secre-
14 tary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
15 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Repre-
16 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Introduced: 2/18/85
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZHAROFF

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 am

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Urging the United States Fish and Wild-

6

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7

cattle slaughter on Simeonof Island.

8

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

9

WHEREAS cattle have been on Simeonof Island since 1894; and

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it plans to kill the cattle on this island during the week of March 4,

12

1985; and

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5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully urges the United
6 States Fish and Wildlife Service to divert the costs of shooting the cattle
7 on Simeonof Island to helping the Shumagin Village Corporation transplant
8 the Simeonof Island cattle to Unga Island; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska
10 delegation in Congress to do everything in its power to persuade the United
11 States Fish and Wildlife Service to postpone the cattle slaughter on
12 Simeonof Island until at least October 1985.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
14 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Donald Hodel,
15 Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
16 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
17 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Introduced: 2/18/85
Referred: Resources

File
2/26/85
17-0.

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZHAROFF

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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6 life Service to postpone the proposed
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7 on Simeonof Island to helping the Shumagin Village Corporation transplant
8 the Simeonof Island cattle to Unga Island; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska
10 delegation in Congress to do ^{everything} [whatever is] in its power to persuade the
11 United States Fish and Wildlife Service to postpone the cattle slaughter on
12 Simeonof Island until at least October 1985.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
14 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Donald Hodel,
15 Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
16 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
17 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

amendment that may be offered
by Ziegler - I don't think it
makes any difference one way
or another.

17-0

/

SENATE AMENDMENT

By Senator Ziegler

To: SJR 14 SENATE BILL No. _____

To: _____ HOUSE BILL No. _____

PAGE:

LINE:

2
2

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Delete "whatever is"
Insert "everything"

MEL
2/25/85

I just talked to David Olsen, Deputy Regional Director for the Fish and Wildlife Service. He has met this morning with representatives of Shumagin Corp. They agreed to the following points:

- 1) Fish and Wildlife will delay any action until ~~the~~ March 18th.
- 2) In that interim the people of Sand Point will spread the word of the cattle's availability.
- 3) On March 18, Fish and Wildlife will institute a "culling" operation, killing the old cattle. They will leave at least 90 head of the best stock on the island.
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bum steer

horns of a dilemma

our committee head the ~~the~~ resolution
and mooved it out

UN

When this resolution was referred to the Resources Committee we realized that this was a difficult problem and that we were apt to find ourselves on the horns of a dilemma. However, we did not hide from the problem. In seeking advice on the problem, we received a few bum steers, but we remained uncowed and did not let ourselves be stampeded.

We mooved the resolution out of committee and it is now before the full Senate. I hope that the members will realize that this is no bull and will vote for this measure.

Alaska State Legislature

ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Chairman
BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Vice Chairman
JACK COGHILL
DICK ELIASON
VIC FISCHER
RICK KALFORD
FRED ZHAROFF



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4907

Senate Committee on Resources

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 1985

TO: All Members
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Staff
Senate Resources Committee. *WEL*

RE: SJR 14 Urging the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to postpone the proposed cattle slaughter on Simeonof Island.

Wild cattle live on thirteen islands which are part of the eastern Aleutian Chain. Three of these, Simeonof, Caton, and Chernabura, are part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Cattle have been on Simeonof Island since 1894, and on the other two islands since the early 1960's.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuge, feels the cattle are destroying important waterfowl habitat. Since 1982, Fish and Wildlife has been trying to remove the cattle from the refuge. They first tried to sell them, but that was only partly successful. In July of last year, the islands were opened to the unrestricted taking of cattle. The Shumagin Village Corporation expressed an interest in removing cattle from Simeonof Island and was given until December 10, 1984 to submit a written plan to do so.

The Shumagin Corporation does not feel it can move the cattle until September of this year. The Fish and Wildlife Service currently plans to shoot all cattle on the three islands, commencing on March 4th (one week from today).

SJR 14 requests that the cattle slaughter be delayed until at least October 1985. Enclosed in this packet is a report by the House Research Agency and an exchange of letters between the Shumagin Corporation and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

SEN. STURGULEWSKI



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RESEARCH AGENCY

Pouch Y, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3991

December 12, 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Adelheid Herrmann

FROM: Jonathan Sherwood
Legislative Analyst

RE: Problems with Cattle in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife
Refuge
Research Request C5-055

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to eliminate cattle from the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Deborah Greenberg of your staff requested that we investigate the problems leading to the proposed elimination of cattle. We were also asked to provide background information on cattle ranching in the Aleutian Islands. We have contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Shumagin Village Corporation, and several agencies involved with land management or agriculture in Alaska to provide the following information.

The Removal of Cattle from the Alaska Maritime Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presently allows individuals to capture or kill cattle on Simeonof, Caton, and Chernabura Islands. These islands are part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and are managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Prior to 1981, these islands were jointly managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

At approximately the same time joint management of the islands was terminated, the BLM permits which allowed cattle to graze on these islands expired. The Fish and Wildlife Service did not renew the permits. Ed Bailey, a biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, stated that the BLM had informed permit holders in the early 1970's that it did not intend to renew the permits. The cattle became the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Service because permit holders did not remove the cattle when their permits expired. Although it is the permit holder's responsibility to remove cattle when a permit expires, Mr. Bailey explained that it was not practical for the Fish and Wildlife Service to enforce this requirement, as it is expensive to remove the cattle and it is unlikely that any of the permit holders have the financial resources to do so.

Representative Herrmann
December 12, 1984
Page Two

History of Cattle on the Islands. According to Ed Bailey, the cattle on Caton and Chernabura Islands were put there as a result of grazing permits issued by the BLM in the early 1960s. Cattle have been on Simeonof Island since 1894. Both Mr. Bailey and Tom Early, Acting Director of the refuge, stated that the cattle on the islands have never been properly managed. Typically, cattle were brought to the islands and left to graze without supervision. No effort was made to ensure adequate winter pastures by preventing cattle from overgrazing. It is the consensus of most of the individuals I contacted that the cattle on these islands have become wild.

One result of the lack of management is that cattle populations on Simeonof Island reached levels far above the maximum established by the BLM for its grazing permits. The permit for Simeonof Island allowed a maximum of less than 300 cattle; at one point, it was estimated that more than 700 cattle were on the island. According to Delon Brown, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the cattle populations on islands in this area can vary greatly, depending on the harshness of the winter and spring seasons.

Tom Early stated that none of the cattle operations on these islands had ever been very profitable. He stated that no cattle had ever been taken from Chernabura by permit holders and only a very few cattle had been taken from Caton. According to Ed Bailey, the permit holder on Simeonof attempted to sell his permit on several occasions; each time the purchaser eventually defaulted on his payments and the permit holder reclaimed the permit. The viability of cattle operations in the region is discussed in a later section of this memorandum.

From 1982 until last July, the Fish and Wildlife Service made the cattle on these islands available for sale. According to Tom Early, only a few individuals attempted to take cattle from the islands under this removal program. Mr. Early was aware of three occasions on which someone posted the necessary bond to take cattle from the islands and only one attempt which was successful. This success came when about 300 head of cattle were removed from Simeonof Island.

In July of this year, the Fish and Wildlife Service began allowing the unrestricted taking of cattle from the islands. Although the open taking period officially ended in October, Mr. Early stated that anyone interested in taking cattle from the islands is still encouraged to do so. In fact, when the Shumagin Corporation expressed an interest in taking a large number of cattle from Simeonof Island after the October deadline, the Fish and Wildlife Service gave the corporation until December 10 to submit a plan for removing the cattle.

Representative Herrmann
December 12, 1984
Page Three

Tom Early was uncertain as to how many cattle remain on the three islands. While it is believed that about 350 cattle remained on Simeonof after the 300 cattle were taken under the sale program, the Fish and Wildlife Service has not yet assessed the impact of making the cattle available to the general public without charge. One estimate made in October of this year placed the number at about 600 for all three islands.

To date, it appears that the public taking of cattle has not involved removal of live cattle from the island; rather, the cattle are shot and the meat is removed by boat or plane. Mr. Early is aware of Coast Guard personnel taking some cattle and believes that passing fishermen have probably taken cattle from the islands as well. In addition, residents of nearby islands have taken some cattle. Dick Jacobson, President of Shumagin Corporation, stated that at least twenty cattle have been taken by Sand Point residents in the last two months. Lance Trasky, with the Department of Fish and Game, was also aware of residents from communities in the vicinity taking cattle.

There are several problems with removing live cattle from the three islands. Chernabura and Caton are described by Mr. Early as very rugged with none of the structures, such as cattle pens and loading chutes, which might facilitate rounding up the cattle. In addition, the cattle are wild and are dispersed throughout each of the islands. According to Dick Jacobson, the cattle can outrun horses on the tundra and airplane herding is difficult.

Simeonof has a good harbor and the cattle pens and loading chutes which make removal of live cattle more practical. However, many of the cattle have already been removed from this island. According to Mr. Jacobson, the cattle remaining are likely to be more difficult to round up, as the most accessible cattle have already been taken.

Reasons for Removing the Cattle. According to Mr. Early, cattle represent a threat to waterfowl habitat on these islands. There has been heavy erosion on parts of these islands; the cattle eat the cover and trample out trails which erode under the constant rain. Erosion is a particular problem in some beach areas, as the cattle feed on beach grasses and kelp in the winter. According to Mr. Bailey, desertization of the beach land has already occurred on some parts of the island.

Lance Trasky, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Habitat Protection Division, mentioned that cattle can also trample the nests of waterfowl that reside in the beach areas where the cattle seek their winter forage. Ed Bailey stated that the presence of cattle on these islands increases the threat to waterfowl from foxes, which were imported to several islands in the area to encourage a fur industry. According

Representative Herrmann
December 12, 1984
Page Four

to Mr. Bailey, the cattle remove cover, making the waterfowl more accessible to foxes; carcasses of starved cattle also provides more food for foxes, increasing the fox population and thus increasing their impact on waterfowl.

According to Ed Bailey, the cattle are not threatening any endangered species of waterfowl on these islands. However, Mr. Bailey identified Simeonof as the island having the best potential for waterfowl habitat on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula. Mr. Bailey has spent several years studying the habitat in the region and has personally visited all of the islands in the region. He formerly resided in Cold Bay while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of the Izembeck Refuge.

It should be noted that the representatives of wildlife management agencies with whom I spoke perceived a much greater impact to the environment from cattle than those individuals involved in agriculture or other areas of land management. For example, Margaret Hayes, Manager of the Southcentral Land District for the Division of Land and Water Management, was not aware of overgrazing problems on Chirikof Island, which is managed by the State, while Mr. Early and Mr. Bailey characterized it as seriously overgrazed.

Both Ms. Hayes and Tom Hawkins, Director of Land and Water Management, stated that the most typical problem with cattle leases is underutilization of the resource, not overgrazing. In addition, a 1983 report on the range condition of Simeonof Island "indicated only the beach wildrye plant communities were in poor condition, less than 5% of the entire grazing area."¹

Dick Jacobson, President of the Shumagin Corporation, has visited Simeonof Island four times in the last two months and does not believe that the cattle are destroying the wildlife habitat. While he acknowledges that the cattle had overpopulated the island at one point, he does not believe this problem will continue now that many cattle have been removed and residents of the area have begun taking the cattle for food. Delon Brown, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Palmer, stated that while he did not have knowledge of the specific situation on the islands in question, he found it difficult to imagine cattle causing serious damage to the habitat.

¹Jay D. McKendrick, "Alaska's Range Livestock Potential," Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Finance and Economics, Research Monograph Series No. 84-0010, p. 3.

Representative Herrmann
December 12, 1984
Page Five

While it is likely that individuals outside of habitat management are assessing the impact of cattle on the environment with different standards than habitat biologists, it would appear that the damage done by cattle may not be so severe as to present concerns to individuals whose primary focus of concern is not waterfowl habitat.

Current Status of the Cattle. The current plans of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are to shoot any cattle which remain on the three islands this spring. According to Tom Early, the public has had three years to remove cattle from the island; the Fish and Wildlife Service considers this an adequate opportunity to take the cattle.

The Shumagin Corporation is attempting to develop a plan for removing some of the cattle from Simeonof Island to Unga Island. According to Dick Jacobson, the corporation is not interested in going into the cattle business, but hopes to move them inexpensively to preserve a food resource for the local population. When the cattle were owned by private individuals, the residents of nearby islands did not take many cattle, because of the expense of purchasing the cattle and the distance involved in getting to the islands. However, Mr. Jacobson explained that the local economy has slumped with the decline of the king and tanner crab. This situation, combined with the fact that individuals no longer have to buy the cattle from the permit holder, has apparently resulted in an increase in the local residents use of the cattle for food.

Mr. Jacobson cited several difficulties in complying with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request for a written cattle-removal plan by December 10, 1984. There are several land owners on Unga Island whose permission must be obtained before cattle can be moved there; there are only two barges available to move the cattle and scheduling their time is a problem. In addition, rounding up the cattle is likely to be a difficult task. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has offered to donate the use of its helicopters for the cattle removal effort, Mr. Jacobson must still coordinate the barge use, the Fish and Wildlife helicopters, and the local labor, in addition to securing the necessary permission from landowners on Unga.

According to Tom Early, the Fish and Wildlife Service would like any further attempts to remove cattle from the island completed by February. At this time, there are no plans to salvage any of the meat from the cattle if they are shot in place. As noted earlier, the terrain is difficult and the cattle are not in any central location. However, Mr. Early stated that if the Shumagin Corporation was interested in taking out the meat from the cattle, the Fish and Wildlife Service would be willing to coordinate the cattle hunts with those activities.

Representative Herrmann
December 12, 1984
Page Six

Cattle Ranching in the Aleutians

Cattle are located on several islands south of the Alaska Peninsula and on the eastern Aleutian Chain. According to Delon Brown, who compiles an annual grazing report for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there are cattle on Akun, Akutan, Caton, Chernabura, Cherni, Deer, Dolgoi, Bird, Sanak, Simeonof, Unalaska, Unmak, and Wosnesenki Islands. In addition, there are cattle on Kodiak and several of its surrounding islands. As of January 1, 1984, there were slightly more than 4,800 cattle in the region, including the Kodiak area.

Virtually everyone with whom I spoke stated that cattle ranching in the Aleutians is a marginal enterprise at best. In some locations, cattle are slaughtered sporadically, and little attempt to properly manage the cattle occurs. Delon Brown cited the Chenofski ranch on Unalaska as probably the best managed ranch in the Aleutians. On at least one island, Unmak, cattle production is combined with sheep ranching.

While compiling the grazing reports, Mr. Brown stated that it is often a task just determining who owns which cattle on the islands. Some of the cattle in the area are owned; some are not. According to Mr. Brown, barges with cattle occasionally have broken down, put cattle off on an island, and never returned to collect them. The land on which cattle graze includes State, federal, and Native lands.

Cattle production for beef involves three phases:

"the cow-calf phase where calves are sold at weaning, the grower phase where weaned calves are grown to about 750 pounds, and the finishing phase where feeders weighing about 750 pounds are put into a feedlot and fattened to about 1,050 pounds."²

For the first two phases of beef production, the Aleutians have a significant advantage over mainland Alaska cattle ranching in the presence of year-round grazing. Ranchers in the Railbelt may have to provide cattle with winter feed for up to seven months. In the Aleutians, cattle can graze on beach grasses and kelp through the winter months. Although grazing appears to be quite good on many islands in the Aleutians, several studies have noted a lack of research on the capacity and productivity of Aleutian ranges.

The final, feedlot, phase however, requires considerable amount of grain, which is not available locally. To support this phase, grain

² Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, An Economic Assessment of Alaskan Agriculture, December 1983, p. 15.

Representative Herrmann
December 12, 1984
Page Seven

would have to be shipped out to the Aleutians and the cattle would then have to be shipped to market. Cattle can also be sold grass fattened without the finishing phase; however, this takes longer and the meat, which is considered to be of lower quality as finished beef, sells for less. A 1974 study by the Rural Development Council identified a potential market for grass-fattened beef in the boned and frozen, manufactured beef industry, although later studies addressing cattle ranching in Alaska have not mentioned this possibility.³

The primary hindrance to the cattle industry in the Aleutians appears to be its distance from potential beef markets and the high cost of transportation in and out of the region. This reason was cited by several studies and many of the individuals I contacted as the reason the cattle industry has never developed in the Aleutians and the Alaska Maritime islands. High transportation costs add to both the cost of bringing supplies and feed in and shipping the cattle out. These costs may be prohibitive; even outside Alaska, cattle ranching does not appear to be a highly profitable activity. One report notes that the profitability of ranching in Western states has always been slim.⁴

* * *

I hope this information is of use to you. There are several reports to which we have access that briefly discuss the potential for a cattle industry in the Aleutians; we could provide you with the appropriate excerpts if you so desire. Unfortunately, I was unable to locate any thorough discussion of current cattle ranching activities in the area. If you have any further questions, or if we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

JS

³ Alaska Rural Development Council, Alaska's Agricultural Potential, March 1974, p. 128.

⁴ Jay D. McKendrick, "Alaska's Range Livestock Potential," Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Finance and Economics, Research Monograph Series No. 84-0010, P.4.

JAN 19 1985

Shumagin Corporation

P.O. Box 174
Sand Point, Alaska 99661

(907) 383-3525

January 14, 1985

Mr. Bob Jacobsen
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Jacobsen;

This letter is in regard to our phone conversation on January 14, 1985. The following is a brief outline of our proposal for removing the cattle from Simeonof Island and our progress so far:

1. To obtain permission from all 12 corporations involved in the ownership of Unga Island which is where we intend to place the cattle.

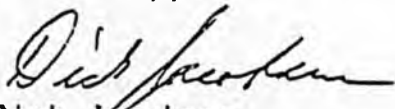
Enclosed are copies of three letters of non-objection obtained so far. We foresee no problems in getting permission from the remaining corporations, and expect to have this completed within the next couple of weeks.

2. Arrange for transportation and collection of cattle by March 31, 1985. Actual moving to begin by September 1, 1985, and to be completed by September 30, 1985.

Fish and Wildlife has offered us the possible use of a helicopter for assisting in the transport of some of the cattle. We have also been in contact with two parties who have landing barges which might also be used. We have yet to see these crafts, but plan to do so soon to determine if they would be suitable for our use.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding in our gradual progress in this matter. We are making every effort to get this project organized and will keep you informed of our progress.

Sincerely,



Dick Jacobsen
President

cc. Rep. Adelheid Herrmann
Congressman Don Young
Senator Ted Stevens



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

REPLY REFER TO:

AWR/0942P

FEB 6 1985

Mr. Dick Jacobsen, President
Shumagin Corporation
P.O. Box 174
Sand Point, Alaska 99661

Dear Mr. Jacobsen:

On January 31, 1985, we advised you of our decision to proceed with destruction of all remaining cattle on the Simeonof, Chernabura and Caton Island units of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge during the week of February 4, 1985. We encouraged the Shumagin Corporation to participate in either the removal of live cattle or salvage of meat.

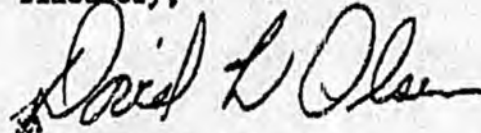
We were subsequently contacted by Mr. Lamar Cotton, City Manager, and Jack Foster, Mayor, City of Sand Point, Representative Adelaide Herrmann, and a representative of Governor Sheffield's office and asked to postpone our operation. We were told that you and many others from the Sand Point community were crab fishing and wouldn't have time to respond to our invitation within the time provided. The livestock must be removed before the next vegetative growing season (or as early in March 1985, as possible) to stop the continued damage that is occurring to refuge resources from grazing and trampling. However, we are also concerned that as many of the remaining livestock as possible be utilized. Therefore, we agreed with the request, and have rescheduled our operation for the week of March 4, 1985, weather permitting.

In an effort to accomplish wilderness management objectives and facilitate the salvage of meat, we are prepared to authorize you to bring up to five two-, three-, or four-wheeled, low ground pressure tired all-terrain vehicles, or snowmobiles (provided there is adequate snow cover), for use on Simeonof Island. The use of such vehicles is normally prohibited in designated wilderness (such as on Simeonof and Chernabura), but given the emergency nature of this livestock removal operation, from the standpoint of resource protection needs, we are authorizing their use under the supervision of refuge personnel during the duration of removal activities.

If you wish to try to take some of the animals off Simeonof live, we are still prepared to assist your gathering efforts with the helicopter that we'll have on the island.

We encourage you to work directly and promptly with Refuge Manager Martin and his staff, to coordinate your salvage efforts. He will keep your office currently informed about our plans.

Sincerely,


Regional Director

cc: Lamar Cotton
Jack Foster
Representative Adelaide Herrmann
Senator Ted Stevens
Congressman Don Young
Senator Frank Murkowski
Director, USFWS
Chief, Division of Refuge Management
Governor Bill Sheffield

Introduced: 2/18/85
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZHAROFF

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Urging the United States Fish and Wild-

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life Service to postpone the proposed

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cattle slaughter on Simeonof Island.

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

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WHEREAS cattle have been on Simeonof Island since 1894; and

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WHEREAS the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that

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it plans to kill the cattle on this island during the week of March 4,

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1985; and

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WHEREAS the people in the communities near Simeonof Island are suffer-

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ing difficult economic times due to the decline of the fishery stocks; and

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WHEREAS the people in the communities near Simeonof Island have

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used the cattle on Simeonof Island as a supplemental food source in the

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past, and would like to continue to do so in the future; and

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WHEREAS there are cattle holding pens and loading chutes on Simeonof

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Island to facilitate removal of the cattle; and

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WHEREAS the Shumagin Village Corporation wants to transplant the

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cattle from Simeonof Island to Unga Island, but the Shumagin Village Corpo-

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ration needs [until ^{time} September 1985] to establish agreements to do so with the

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13 regional nonprofit corporations that own Unga Island; and

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WHEREAS the slaughter of the cattle would constitute a waste of thou-

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sands of pounds of beef that could be used by needy Alaskans in the immedi-

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ate area; and

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WHEREAS the elimination of the cattle will be very expensive; and

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WHEREAS the cost of the destruction of the cattle could be used to

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better advantage to help the Shumagin Village Corporation transplant the

1 cattle to Unga Island;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
3 urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to postpone its termina-
4 tion action related to the cattle until at least October 1985; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully urges the United
6 States Fish and Wildlife Service to divert the costs of shooting the cattle
7 on Simeonof Island to helping the Shumagin Village Corporation transplant
8 the Simeonof Island cattle to Unga Island; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska
10 delegation in Congress to do whatever is in its power to persuade the
11 United States Fish and Wildlife Service to postpone the cattle slaughter on
12 Simeonof Island [until at least October 1985]

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
14 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Donald Hodel,
15 Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
16 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
17 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.