

HJR

39

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
RICHARD FOSTER
BOX 1028
NOME, ALASKA 99782

PO BOX V
JUNEAU, AK 99811
(907) 485-3789



House of Representatives

5 April 1991

Representative Cliff Davidson
Chairman, Resource Committee
MS3100

RE: HJR 39; Regarding a Bowhead Whale Allocation for
the Community of Diomede.

Greetings Cliff:

Please accept this request to calendar HJR 39 before
the House Resource Committee as time permits.

HJR 39 is an attempt to assist the community of Diomede
in obtaining an allocation from the International
Whaling Commission (IWC) for a bowhead whale. All
whales allocated to Alaskan communities are channeled
through the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC).
Individual community allocations are then distributed
at the annual whaling convention in Barrow. Eligible
communities send designated commissioners to this
convention to make the determinations. The AEWC does
endorse Diomede's plea for an allocation and supports
HJR 39.

The IWC meets during May this year in Iceland. By that
time, AEWC and the community of Diomede hope to have
completed a necessary subsistence needs study and it
would be my intention to have HJR 39 accompany their
testimony. Your assistance in this is appreciated.

Please call John Walsh for detail or further
information on this issue.

**** PRESS RELEASE ****

5 April 1991

From: John Walsh
Rep. Richard Foster's Office
Juneau

RE: Introduction House Joint Resolution 39; Regarding
Bowhead Whale Allocation for City of Diomede

Today, April 5, Representative Richard Foster introduced legislation supporting the City of Diomede's request for a bowhead whale allocation. The resolution has been assigned to House Resource committee for consideration. Following committee review, the full House will vote before sending it across to the Senate.

Beverly Grinage, Executive Director with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), has worked closely with Rep. Foster's staff to insure proper format and detail. Upon passage in the Alaska Legislature, the resolution will be transmitted to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Iceland May 1991. The IWC determines allocations of bowhead whales to the AEWC, which then distributes among eligible whaling communities.

In preparation for the May IWC meeting, the AEWC has commissioned a subsistence study with funds provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This study is essential in establishing the traditional use of bowhead whale by the people of Little Diomede.

Rep. Foster stated, "I want to do all I can to assist my friends in Little Diomede in obtaining a bowhead whale. The late Mayor of Diomede, Thomas Menadelook, a renown whaler in the Bering Straits pushed hard for a bowhead allocation and I hope that this resolution will assist in achieving his goal."

Rep. Eileen MacLean was listed as first co-sponsor of HJR 39. Foster expects more colleagues to sign on soon. Any letters of support can be addressed to Rep. Foster, Box V, Juneau, AK. 99811.

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Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
P.O. Box 570
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Phone: (907) 852-2392

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JOHN
WHAT CAN
WE DO TO
HELP? R

January 4, 1991

The Honorable Richard Foster
P.O. Box 1630
Nome, Alaska 99762

Dear Representative Foster:

Our Office has been trying for years to get funding for a subsistence needs study for Little Diomedes so they can receive a bowhead whale quota allocation. We have sent grant requests to various granting agencies including BIA and the National Marine Fisheries Service. With pressure from Senator Ted Stevens, the BIA Office in Juneau finally committed themselves to giving us partial funding for a total of \$40,000. The subsistence needs study requires \$127,000.

This study has to be conducted before the International Whaling Commission (IWC) can consider Little Diomedes as a bowhead whaling community, and the next IWC meeting will be held this May. We are hoping the needs study can be funded, and completed by May so that the Little Diomedes case is presented to the IWC at that time, otherwise we'll have to wait another three years before this case is brought to the IWC again.

We are hoping to enlist your support, and if possible, help the village of Little Diomedes by giving the study the necessary funding it requires. As you may know, bowhead whale hunting is important to the entire community, both physically and culturally. Our Office would appreciate any assistance you can give this crucial need. If you have any questions, please call me at 852-2392.

Sincerely,

Beverly Grinage

Beverly Grinage
Executive Director

cc: City of Little Diomedes
Toby Anungazuk, Jr., AEW Commissionner, Wales

FEB 21 1991

DIOMEDE CITY COUNCIL
DIOMEDE, ALASKA VIA NOME 99762
686-8001

FEBRUARY 12, 1991

The Honorable Richard Foster
P.O. Box 1630
NOME, ALASKA 99762

Dear Representative Foster:

The Little Diomed City Council recently passed a resolution requesting a quota allocation for one Bowhead Whale per year from the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC).

We have been requesting a quota allocation for many years, without any success. We have traditionally hunted the bowhead whale, but because of our isolation we were unable to present our case for a whale quota back when the other whaling villages presented their cases to the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The AEWC has expressed their support to our request, but they have been unable to obtain the necessary funding for a subsistence needs study.

The International Whaling Commission requires that a subsistence needs study be conducted at Little Diomed before they can consider the quota allocation request.

The needs study requires \$127,000.00. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau Area Office, has agreed to give partial funding of \$40,000.00. This was accomplished with the help of Senator Ted Stevens, but another \$87,000.00 is required to conduct the needs study prior to the IWC meeting scheduled for May.

The quote of \$127,000.00 for the needs study was give to AEWC by Stephen R. Braund & Associates. They conducted the needs studies for Barrow and the other whaling communities.

We want to sing our whaling songs, enjoy Nalukataq, and eat black mukluk again. If there is anyway that you can help us find funding for the needs study we would be very grateful. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dwight Millington Sr., City Clerk
Patrick Omiak Sr. *FOR*
Mayor

Enclosure: Resolution 90-11

Honorable Richard Foster
I will mail you a copy
of Res. 90-11 AS SOON AS
I FIND IT
Dwight Millington Sr.

ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION

ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING CAPTAINS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 88-01

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior has commissioned a need study to determine Eskimo needs for bowhead whales by examining historic whaling activities; and

WHEREAS, this study has documented historic whaling activities by the residents of Little Diomedé Island, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Little Diomedé Island have petitioned the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission to become members and receive a bowhead whale quota;

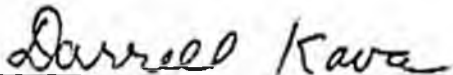
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the AEWK accept Little Diomedé a member of the Commission and that AEWK requests the United States Department of Interior to join with AEWK in asking the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to revise its regulations to include Little Diomedé Island as a recognized whaling village in order to allow AEWK to assign Little Diomedé a bowhead whale quota.

Introduced & Adopted: February 19, 1988

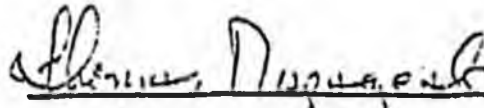
ATTEST:



Chairman



Secretary



Vice Chairman

CITY OF DIOMEDE

RESOLUTION NO.90-11

A RESOLUTION OF DIOMEDE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING A BOWHEAD WHALE QUOTA FOR INALIK (DIOMEDE).

WHEREAS, the allied peoples of Inalik (Little Diomede), ImaqYiq (Big Diomede) and Nuugaq (Naukan) have since time out of mind followed the whale; and

Whereas, today these people live in their traditional homes only on the American Island of Little Diomede at the village of Inalik; and

WHEREAS, at the time quotas were placed on agviit (Black Whale) our isolation meant we were unable to present our case for a whale quota as we followed the ways of our ancestors without contact with the mainland on our island home at Inalik; and

WHEREAS, we have always been a people of the whale; listen to our evidence; listen to our testimony; walk among the whale bones on our island.

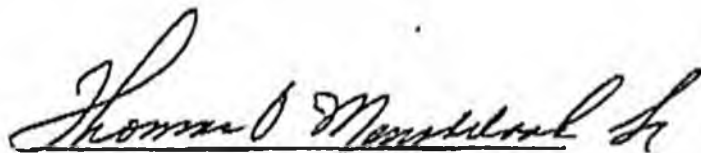
- 1) In Chapters XIX and XX of his book DRUMS of DIOMEDE the missionary-teacher Arthur Hansin Eide on pages 185-205 documents whaling and Nalukataq. In the pictures in his book Eide shows the blessing of the boats, the whale camps on the ice, eleven whale boats returning to the village at Little Diomede, "cutting up the spirit whale", the "beginning of Nallukatak (sic)" muktuk enjoyed by all.
- 2) Our people's blood is mainly from ImaqYiq, also from Inalik, Nuugaq and Uqiuvak, with some from Tapqaq, Tikigaq, Qawiarag, Kingigin, Siugaq. The oldest male Diomedier, Kiminaak was born on the ship Belvedere near Herschel Island in Canada in 1905. His father was Aiyerga, a great whaler from ImaqYiq, who had signed on with this Yankee boat for the spring bowhead hunt. When Kiminaak moved to Little Diomede in 1926 he remembers the whaling at Inalik. His uncle Kayouktuk whaled at Inalik. Kiminaak whaled with Kayouktuk. He remembers: Okpealuk took a whale in 1919, Omiak was striker; another in 1928, in 1938-39 Ahkingas and Sinyakis took whales, in 1953 Omiak lost one, struck by Paul Omiak; then Kiminaak moved to Nome.
- 3) Ahkinga's grandson Kakaduk (Roger Kunayak) remembers the stories. He has whaled in Barrow for black whale. Omiak's son Pat Omiak remembers the stories. He has whaled in Gambell and Barrow with his relation. Ahkinga's son Anolak, Oscar Ahkinga remembers the stories. He has whaled at Barrow and Diomede for black whale. Sons and grandsons of our old whalers still whale. Only now we have to hunt the black whale with our relation at Wales, Gambell, Barrow. At Diomede we can only hunt the gray, the meinke whales.



4) We are tired of hunting only the gray whale at our island. Every year we hunt and land gray whale but we can not hunt the black whale. We know, but sad, can not sing our whaling songs, enjoy Nalukataq, enjoy black muktuk like our brothers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Diomedé City Council, the Native Village of Diomedo, the Village of Inliak, the island of Little Diomedé be granted a quota of at least one black whale.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DIOMEDE CITY COUNCIL of LITTLE DIOMEDE this 5th day of December, 1990.



Thomas Menadelook Sr.
Mayor



ATTEST: 
Dwight Milligock Jr.
City Clerk

Directed to : Eskimo Whaling Commission
Eskimo Whaling Captaining Association
Mayor of the North Slope Borough

Office of
CHARD FOSTER
DISTRICT 23
P. O. Box V
Anchorage, Alaska 99811

Anchorage Daily News Friday, March 1, 1991 E7

Whaling captains allocate '91 harvest, seek quota increase

The Associated Press

BARROW — Eskimo whaling captains have allocated this year's whale harvest among the state's coastal villages, and they said they will ask the International Whaling Commission to increase Alaska's whale quota at its May meeting.

Whalers also reiterated worries about potential offshore oil and gas drilling and plans to respond to oil spills in the Arctic.

The whaling captains wound up

a three-day meeting in Barrow last week by approving the same allocation formula for the 1991 bowhead whale hunt that existed last year. The whaling villages will be allowed to land 41 whales and may take 47 strikes to land them.

Under the allocation, Savoonga and Gambler each will get four whales, Wales will get one, Kivalina two, Point Hope six, Wainwright five, Barrow 15 and Nulikuit and Kaktovik two each.

Whaling captains say they plan to ask for an increase in the Alaska quota when the International Whaling Commission meets in May in Iceland. They said they will propose raising the total to 72 strikes to land 54 whales.

Dr. William Evans, the outgoing U.S. commissioner on the International Whaling Commission, praised Eskimo whalers in Alaska for the way they have managed the

whale hunt under I.W.C. guidelines.

"The aboriginal subsistence management scheme has been in place for eight years, and we have continued to see improved quotas," Evans said.

"We also more importantly have seen improved population estimates, improved science, increases in the population, and a level of cooperation between science, management and the user community

that is unique in the world."

The whaling captains, meanwhile, reiterated concerns about the state's support for offshore oil and gas drilling.

"Together ... we must continue to push for an independent environmental assessment of the safety of drilling in arctic waters," said North Slope Borough Mayor Jessie Kaleak. Kaleak is a whaling captain.

OBITUARIES