

## Senate Concurrent Resolutions

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### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, before the organization of a territorial government in Alaska and before substantial progress had been made in settling the Territory and developing its resources, and while the Territory was still in a state of wilderness, it was the historic policy of the Congress of the United States to prohibit the killing or capturing of sea lions in Alaskan territorial waters, except by natives of Alaska for subsistence and clothing; and,

WHEREAS, Congress was prompted to maintain a policy of protection for sea lions for the reason that the native coastal populations of Alaska, when living in a tribal and uncivilized state, would make use of such sea lions for subsistence and clothing; and,

WHEREAS, such native populations residing in areas where commercial fisheries are now developed have abandoned and departed from their former methods of life and have adopted and do now practice the customs and ways of the white man, including diet and clothing; and,

WHEREAS, the Territory and its resources, and particularly the resources of the sea, including salmon and halibut, now are and during the post-war period will continue to be a source of livelihood for thousands of the Territory's residents, including men and women now serving in the armed forces; and,

WHEREAS, time, experience and investigation have proven conclusively that the sea lion is highly destructive of salmon, halibut and other edible fisheries abounding in territorial waters; and

WHEREAS, said sea lions do abound in territorial waters in huge herds numbering hundreds and thousands, and it is conservatively estimated that a full grown sea lion's consumption of fish will average 60 pounds per day; and,

WHEREAS, fishermen endeavoring to make their living from the sea are confronted with the problem and necessity, in some areas,

of battling with extensive herds of sea lions for each and every fish taken from the water; sea lions in many cases dive to the depth of 20 fathoms or more and throughout such depth remove fish from the fishermen's hooks and tackle, charge through their nets and destroy and break such tackle, gear, nets and lines; and,

WHEREAS, the neighboring government of the Province of British Columbia, Dominion of Canada, recognizing the menace and destruction occasioned by the existence of sea lion herds in British Columbia waters, has recently removed all restrictions from the killing of same and are cooperating with their fishermen and citizens to exterminate and drive the sea lion from British Columbia waters; and,

WHEREAS, the result of such action on the part of British Columbia is to frighten the sea lion herds of British Columbia from their accustomed haunts on the British Columbia coast and to drive them northward into the territorial waters of Southeastern Alaska, where they join with similar herds already in that area and increase and accelerate the devastation and destruction above mentioned; and,

WHEREAS, the native population of the fishing regions of the Alaska coast, in whose behalf sea lions were formerly protected, are no longer interested in or desirous of taking sea lions for subsistence or clothing, but, on the other hand, are equally interested with the white population in bringing about the speedy extermination of said sea lions for the reason that the native population is to a very large degree engaged in commercial fishing activities and suffers equally with the white residents because of the depredations of the sea lions; and,

WHEREAS, the existing legislation by Congress on this subject (Act of June 16, 1934, 48 St. 976; 16 U.S.C. 659) provides that sea lions may be killed and taken in the waters of Alaska under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior; and,

WHEREAS, by regulation promulgated November 17, 1941, and now in effect, the killing of sea lions in waters of the Territory of Alaska is prohibited except under limited circumstances; and,

WHEREAS, the regulation above referred to operates to protect said sea lions and to permit their increase, to the great damage of the Territory and its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Director of the Fish and Wild Life Service of the Department of the Interior has called a meeting of the

Alaska Game Commission, to meet at Juneau, Alaska, on February 8, 1945, to consider and discuss questions arising relative to the control and conservation of the fishery and game resources of the Territory and the extermination of predatory animals of the land and sea, and to formulate recommendations relative thereto, to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for appropriate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, the House concurring, that it is the sense of the people of Alaska that all regulations from whatever source heretofore promulgated for the purpose of protecting sea lions in territorial waters of Alaska ought to be rescinded; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries in the Senate and the Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries in the House be instructed to select and appoint a suitable committee of the Senate and House and to arrange for such committee to meet with the Regional Director of the Fish and Wild Life Service and the members of the Alaska Game Commission at their forthcoming conference, and to present to them the views hereinbefore expressed and to urge said Regional Director and the members of the Alaska Game Commission to recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that all regulations now in existence prohibiting or limiting the taking and killing of sea lions in the territorial waters of Alaska be rescinded.

Passed by the Senate February 7, 1945.

Passed by the House February 13, 1945.