



Alaska State Legislature

1971

Source:

HJR 37 am S

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

Relating to the preservation of whales.

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

WHEREAS the sustainable harvest of great whales today is but a small fraction of what it could be if those stocks were given the opportunity to rebuild; and

WHEREAS this fact is particularly illustrated by the fact that the harvest of whales in the antarctic region has dropped in a dozen years from two-thirds of the total catch to one-tenth; and

WHEREAS the quotas receiving tacit, if not explicit approval by the International Whaling Commission have contributed to the decimation of the antarctic whale resource and unless conservation measures are immediately acted upon, the Pacific and arctic whale resources will also be destroyed; and

WHEREAS, as an example of the latter statement, this year's quota set by the North Pacific Commissioners for sperm whale is 240 per cent of the sustainable yield as estimated by reputable scientists; and

WHEREAS all of these facts lead to the conclusion that unless stringent measures are taken at once by the various whaling countries in concert, all species of the great whales may very well be extinct in the near future;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the International Whaling Commission immediately take action to prevent the further decimation of the great whales of the world,

including the setting of quotas based on a scientific, sustainable yield principle, and the implementation of the proposed International Observer Scheme; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that as a unilateral conservation measure the Secretary of the Department of the Interior is urgently requested to retain all eight of the great whale species on the endangered species list, these being the Bowhead, Right, Blue, Humpback, Gray, Finback, Sei and Sperm whales.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary, Department of the Interior; members of the International Whaling Commission; the governments of the Soviet Union, Japan, Peru, South Africa, Norway, Canada, Australia and Spain; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.