



Alaska State Legislature

1971

Source:

SCR 26 am FCC

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Relating to the taking of polar bear with the aid or use of aircraft.

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

WHEREAS the polar bear is uniquely an "international" animal whose continued existence is a concern to all nations; and

WHEREAS biologists disagree as to the stability of its population and its migration patterns, it is universally acknowledged in any case that the majority of polar bears are found outside our state jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, due to these and other reasons, many nations of the world have banned sport hunting of polar bear; and

WHEREAS Alaska's management standard of "maximum sustained yield", without limiting the common mode of aircraft hunting, is resulting in an alarmingly high illegal take of bears; and

WHEREAS, due to aircraft hunter mobility in conjunction with the vast geographic areas to be covered and the adverse weather conditions of polar bear habitat, effective enforcement of existing law is impossible; and

WHEREAS notwithstanding all of the above, current scientific studies and tagging programs being undertaken by the Department of Fish and Game require harvesting for an additional two seasons to be made under existing law;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the Board of Fish and Game promulgate regulations in 1971 banning the taking of polar bear with the

aid or use of aircraft in any manner in any year following the year that an apparently illegal take of polar bear has occurred, or if scientific studies and tagging programs of the Department of Fish and Game deem it necessary for the management of the species.