

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1996

Source
CSSCR 24(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
57



Relating to a division of game in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and to management of game.

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

WHEREAS, under Governor Steve Cowper, the name of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, division of game, was changed to the division of wildlife conservation on January 1, 1989; and

WHEREAS, during the seven years under the new name, the primary mission of the division, to manage the vast game resources of Alaska, has been significantly redirected toward nongame, nonconsumptive uses and users; and

WHEREAS the change of the name of the division appears to also have changed the focus of the division from management goals reflective of the taxes, license fees, and matching federal dollars provided by consumptive users of game resources to management goals based on public opinion and unscientific data; and

WHEREAS significant amounts of federal and state fish and game funds have been used for purposes other than those purposes statutorily mandated to benefit those hunters and sportsmen whose license fees and equipment taxes provide funding for the division;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the number of actions

by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage people, instead of game, by reducing harvests, implementing onerous methods and means regulations, and restricting access to game, should be kept at the lowest possible levels; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the game resources of Alaska have the potential to be a truly growing "permanent fund," capable of providing the highest harvestable and viewing benefits to all Alaskans; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds that if the Department of Fish and Game desires to provide viewing opportunities and other nonconsumptive uses of resources, that those uses compete with other department programs for general fund money and not siphon federal and state fish and game funds provided by hunters and sportsmen; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urgently requests Governor Knowles to reestablish the division of game within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and to reaffirm the division's primary mission to manage the game resources of the state to achieve and maintain high sustainable levels of game for all Alaskans.