

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 193

To express the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior should direct the representatives of their departments who are members of the United States delegation to the International Whaling Commission to remain diligent in their efforts to protect the ability of Native people of the United States, who have been issued quotas by the International Whaling Commission, to continue to legally harvest whales, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior should direct the representatives of their departments who are members of the United States delegation to the International Whaling Commission to remain diligent in their efforts to protect the ability of Native people of the United States, who have been issued quotas by the International Whaling Commission, to continue to legally harvest whales, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Department of Commerce has the authority and the expertise for the conservation and management of living marine resources;

Whereas the Department of Commerce has the scientific expertise to conserve and manage whale species and is the executive department with the responsibility for gathering scientific information on the status and health of whale populations;

Whereas the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has the mission to fulfill its trust responsibilities and promote self-determination on behalf of tribal governments, Indians, and Alaska Natives;

Whereas many Alaska Natives rely on whales to provide sustenance and to meet their subsistence and cultural needs;

Whereas the International Whaling Commission allocates quotas for the Alaska Native harvest of bowhead whales;

Whereas a representative of the Department of Commerce is the Commissioner for the United States delegation to the International Whaling Commission;

Whereas sound science should guide the decisions of the United States delegation in negotiating positions on resolutions before the International Whaling Commission;

Whereas the concept of marine protected areas has been a topic of much debate in the United States; and

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce currently uses scientific information to determine how marine protected areas should be developed, implemented, and monitored, and uses a transparent public process to designate marine protected areas in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

1 (1) the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
2 retary of the Interior should direct the representa-
3 tives of their departments who are members of the
4 United States delegation to the International Whal-
5 ing Commission to remain diligent in their efforts to
6 protect the ability of Native people of the United
7 States who have been issued quotas by the Inter-
8 national Whaling Commission to continue to legally
9 harvest whales;

10 (2) the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
11 retary of the Interior should instruct their represent-
12 atives to the United States delegation of the 53d an-
13 nual meeting of the International Whaling Commis-
14 sion to support positions that are based on sound
15 science;

16 (3) the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
17 retary of the Interior should instruct their represent-
18 atives to the United States delegation of the 53d an-
19 nual meeting of the International Whaling Commis-
20 sion to oppose designation of the South Pacific
21 Sanctuary or any other large-scale sanctuary until
22 such time as the Scientific Committee of the Inter-
23 national Whaling Commission issues scientific guide-
24 lines and criteria for the creation of sanctuaries, de-
25 velops protocols for the monitoring of such sanc-

1 tuaries, and develops a research program to deter-
2 mine whether sanctuaries meet the goals for which
3 they were created; and

4 (4) the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
5 retary of the Interior should instruct their represent-
6 atives to the United States delegation of the 53d an-
7 nual meeting of the International Whaling Commis-
8 sion to support speedy completion of any remaining
9 portions of the Revised Management Scheme.

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