

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
97-114-BOG

A resolution of the Alaska Board of Game concerning dual management for Alaska's fish and game resources.

WHEREAS, since statehood, the Alaska Board of Fish and Game, and in more recent times, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game have responsibly managed Alaska's fish and game resources, following principles such as sustained yield, maximum use, equal access, subsistence, and public involvement, and

WHEREAS, decisions by the federal courts led to the elimination of the Board of Game's authority to regulate subsistence uses of game resources on federal lands in Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the resultant "dual management" system of regulating Alaska's resources is extremely cumbersome and has created much confusion among users in Alaska, ensuring continued frustration, resulting from the existence of two overlapping, rarely complementary, often conflicting regulatory systems, and

WHEREAS, this dual system creates conflict between federal and state managers, which has led to many difficult working relationships among respective agency staffs; and also puts Alaska's wildlife resources at risk due to overlapping and disjunct regulations by federal management, and

WHEREAS, many areas are closed to non-local hunters, whether necessary or not, which ensures a continued loss of opportunity for urban hunters, non-resident hunters and hunters from other rural areas, and

WHEREAS, federal management brings an uncertain commitment to rural hunters by the federal government, because national constituencies will exert increasing influence over future management decisions in Alaska, and

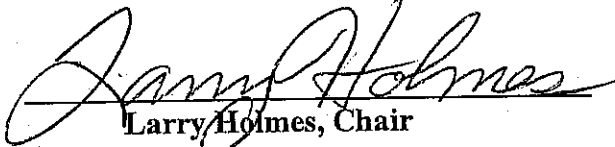
WHEREAS, continued inaction on this issue will lead to the Alaska Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game becoming increasingly superfluous to wildlife management in many areas of the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Game supports the return of all management of Alaska's fish and game resources to the State of Alaska, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Game endorses an immediate solution that returns management to the State of Alaska.

ADOPTED DATE: October 30, 1997
Nome, Alaska

VOTE: 6-0-1


Larry Holmes, Chair
Alaska Board of Game