

AK 99-154

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 6-8-99

Submitted by: Assemblymember VON GEMMINGEN

Prepared by: Assembly Office

For reading: June 8, 1999

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 99- 154

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY URGING THE
MAYOR AND GOVERNOR TO ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY TO PREVENT THE LISTING OF
COOK INLET BELUGA WHALES UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OR
MARINE MAMMALS PROTECTION ACT**

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has determined that a listing of Cook Inlet beluga whales may be warranted under either the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA); and

WHEREAS, this determination is based primarily on petitions from the Trustees for Alaska and the Animal Welfare Institute which express concerns about a dramatic and sudden decrease in the beluga whale population; and

WHEREAS, the purported magnitude of the whale population decrease is suspect because current numbers, derived by using a recently revised counting methodology, are compared to old numbers which have not been adjusted to the new methodology - a methodology which has not been subject to public scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, the petition by Trustees for Alaska identifies all users of Cook Inlet as capable of having some impact on beluga whales, while state and federal governments have determined that any decline in the beluga whale population is chiefly attributable to subsistence hunting; and

WHEREAS, state and federal studies have shown that industry activity in Cook Inlet has neither impacted beluga whales and fisheries adversely nor resulted in any significant environmental degradation of water quality; and

WHEREAS, beluga whale hunting in Cook Inlet has recently been declared illegal until October 1, 2000, allowing NMFS ample time to work out a co-management agreement to regulate subsistence hunting of beluga whales in the inlet; and

WHEREAS, listing beluga whales under the ESA or the MMPA will have a devastating impact on the economy of not just Anchorage, but of the whole State of Alaska; and

2
3
4 WHEREAS, NMFS has repeatedly turned down requests for an additional comment
5 period, suggesting that the public will have adequate time for comment if a listing is
6 proposed; however, once a listing has been proposed it is rarely, if ever, reversed; and
7

8 WHEREAS, this is an issue of major importance, with the potential to have
9 significant adverse effects on the economic future not only of Anchorage, but of the entire
10 State.
11

12 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves
13

14 Section 1: That the Assembly urges Governor Knowles and Mayor Mystrom to
15 act expeditiously, using every means available, to prevent the listing
16 of Cook Inlet beluga whales under the ESA or the MMPA.
17

18 Section 2: That the Assembly also urges the Governor and Mayor to work at
19 bringing the principal parties to the table to negotiate a viable
20 agreement for co-management of the Cook Inlet beluga whale
21 population.
22

23 Section 3: That, upon passage and approval, a copy of this resolution be
24 forwarded to Governor Knowles, Mayor Mystrom, State Legislators,
25 Alaska Congressional Delegation, NMFS, AML, AOGA, RDC, and
26 AEDC.
27

28 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 8th day of
29 June, 1999.
30

31
32
33
34 Via M. J. 7
35 Chair

36 ATTEST:
37

38
39
40 L. Ferguson
41 Municipal Clerk
42
43

Municipality of Anchorage
MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE
AGENDA DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Ar 99-154

1	SUBJECT OF AGENDA DOCUMENT	DATE PREPARED <i>6-8-99</i>
	<i>Listing of Cook Inlet Beluga Whales</i>	INDICATE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED <i>AR</i>
2	DEPARTMENT NAME <i>Assembly</i>	DIRECTOR'S NAME
3	THE PERSON THE DOCUMENT WAS ACTUALLY PREPARED BY	HIS/HER PHONE NUMBER
4	COORDINATED WITH AND REVIEWED BY	INITIALS
	DATE	
	Mayor	
	Municipal Clerk	
	Municipal Attorney	
	Employee Relations Director	
	Municipal Manager	
	Finance	
	Community Development and Planning	
	Property and Facility Management	
	Management Information Systems	
	Office of Management and Budget	
	Purchasing	
	Operations Manager	
	Cultural and Recreational Services	
	Fire	
	Health and Human Services	
	Police	
	Public Works	
	Transit	
	Merrill Field (Airport)	
	Municipal Light and Power	
	Anchorage Water and Wastewater	
	Port	
	Solid Waste Services	
5	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/COMMENTS	
	<i>Addendum - For Action, r.c.</i>	
6	ASSEMBLY MEETING DATE <i>6-8-99</i>	7 PUBLIC HEARING DATE REQUESTED <i>—</i>

232
RECEIVED
Office of Municipal Clerk
JUN 8 1999
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650