

April 6, 1983

ALASKA JOINT BOARD OF FISHERIES AND GAME
Resolution #JB-83-10

WHEREAS, the harvesting of fish, shellfish, furbearers, and game is an important component of the livelihoods of residents of Southeastern Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the widespread abundance and availability of fish and game resources in Southeastern Alaska largely determine the lifestyle, customs, and values of the residents of that region, and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated conclusively that clearcut logging as presently practiced on the Tongass National Forest will permanently decrease the carrying capacity of the Forest for Sitka black-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, research on other wildlife species such as bald eagles, mountain goats, marten, and Vancouver Canada geese indicates that these species as well may be adversely impacted by present logging practices on the Tongass Forest and furthermore,

WHEREAS, although long-term effects of logging on fisheries are not fully understood, fishery scientists believe that cumulative impacts of logging activities can be expected to severely reduce fish stocks, and

WHEREAS, logging of this magnitude will have long-term detrimental effects on fish and and wildlife resources and upon those Alaskan residents dependent upon those resources for recreation or livelihood, and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Regional Council has addressed the issue and considers that the escalating conflicts point to a crisis situation, and

WHEREAS, the 1985 report to Congress on the status of timber, fisheries, and wild-life resources of the Tongass Forest mandated by Sec. 706 of ANILCA provides the best opportunity for the State to modify existing unsatisfactory logging practices and policies on the Tongass, now therefore

The Alaska Joint Board of Fisheries and Game respectfully requests that Governor Sheffield, following guidelines similar to those contained in Administrative Order 55, undertake a major project review of the existing conflict between present logging practices on the Tongass National Forest and maintenance of existing fish and wildlife populations. This review, directed toward providing a State 1985 report to Congress, should 1) carefully evaluate the social, economic, and biological ramifications of current logging practices and goals; 2) determine the immediate and long-term impacts of present and future logging activities on fish and game resources; and 3) assess the impacts of these practices on the livelihood, lifestyles, customs, and values of the residents of Southeastern Alaska. Results of this review would allow the State of Alaska to achieve a balanced allocation of forest resources, providing for timber harvesting and retention of other forest resources necessary for the maintenance of contemporary livelihoods and lifestyles in Southeastern Alaska.


John Shively, Chairman
Joint Board of Fisheries and Game