

# **Murkowski issues protest**

**To Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan:**

A regulation proposed over a year ago by the Fish and Wildlife Service to deny Alaska Natives the right to make and sell craft items from the sea otters has not yet been withdrawn by the service, despite sound and persuasive arguments against its adoption, and it is for that reason that I write to you.

The proposed rule is unwarranted and indefensible, and, accordingly, I urge you to withdraw it.

In my view, the Fish and Wildlife

Service has created an issue where none need exist. Alaska Native use of the sea otter fur in handicrafts, presently allowed by the exemption in the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, is limited. Not only is the sea otter population unthreatened, it is growing.

I would be grateful if you will give this issue your personal attention.

Sincerely yours,  
Sen. Frank H. Murkowski  
Washington, D.C.

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