

Conservationists Back Natives-

3 Conservation Groups Strongly Back Natives

NOME — Alaska spokesmen for three conservation organizations testified strongly in behalf of the continued use by Alaskan Natives of ocean mammals at the hearing in Nome, held Thursday, May 11, conducted for the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee by Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens.

The spokesmen endorsed exceptions for the marine mammals legislation now in the Senate Commerce Committee which would allow continued subsistence hunting of ocean mammals and the use of their parts for continued arts and

crafts within Native cottage industries.

Arthur Davidson, Anchorage, Alaska Representative for Friends of the Earth, a national conservation organization told the hearing that Alaskan Natives have always lived "in balance" with their environment and that Friends of the Earth has realized such and would work to support legislation which would reflect this and which would allow continued Native uses of marine mammals.

Ernest Mueller, Fairbanks, President of the state-wide, 900-member Alaska Conservation

Society told the hearing that, while the Society "strongly supports the protection of marine mammals," it does so on the basis of management of each species rather than under blanket regulation of all marine mammals such as that proposed under pending legislation.

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