Dolphins such as this one will receive greater protection from the tuna fishery's purse-seine nets and driftnets if stringent tuna-labeling legislation is passed in Congress.

MARINE-MAMMAL BILLS TAKE OFF

Since Congress reconvened at the beginning of this year, several marine-mammal protection bills have made significant progress.

In January, Sen. Joseph Biden (Delaware) and six colleagues introduced S. 2044, a tough tuna-labeling bill designed to reduce dolphin mortality. Meanwhile, H.R. 2926, the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act, introduced by Rep. Barbara Boxer of California, gained the support of more than 160 co-sponsors.

Then, in April, the StarKist Seafood Company suddenly announced it would no longer sell tuna caught in association with dolphins and would label their canned tuna “Dolphin Safe.” Two other major producers of canned tuna—Chicken of the Sea brand and Bumble Bee brand—followed suit with similar announcements the same day, but only Chicken of the Sea has agreed to the excellent StarKist standards.

Because other companies are claiming to have “Dolphin Safe” tuna, it is imperative that legislation establish government standards and enforcement to ensure conformity. In May, the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries approved H.R. 2926, which requires that the label of any tuna product containing tuna harvested by purse-seine nets in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean or by driftnets on the high seas display the statement: “The tuna in this product was caught with methods that kill dolphins.”

As amended in committee, H.R. 2926 also includes a provision that bans the sale of all “dolphin unsafe” tuna products in the United States.

Also in May, the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries approved H.R. 132, authored by Rep. Don Young of Alaska, which strengthens the “Pelly Amendment” to the Fishermen’s Protective Act by giving the President authority to embargo any products of nations subverting international fishery- and wildlife-conservation agreements. Current law allows the President to embargo fish and wildlife products only.

To address the continuing whale-slaughter problem, identical resolutions have been introduced in the House and Senate. H.Con.Res. 287, authored by Rep. Gus Yatron of Pennsylvania, and S.Con.Res. 126, introduced by Sen. Claiborne Pell (Rhode Island) and eight colleagues, call for a minimum ten-year extension of the International Whaling Commission’s moratorium on commercial whaling. The present moratorium is subject to review this year.

“PREVENT-A-LITTER MONTH” SIGNED

The lobbying efforts of The HSUS and our members nationwide paid off in April, when Congress passed our resolution officially designating April 1990 as “National Prevent-A-Litter Month.” Now Public Law 101-261, the resolution was sponsored by Rep. Dean Gallo of New Jersey and Sen. Alan Cranston of California. Passage of the resolution was a shining example of the successful grassroots efforts of HSUS members. Members can feel proud that the publicity generated by this national recognition of the pet-overpopulation problem continues to help shelters nationwide to promote their spay/neuter programs.

HSUS TESTIFIES ON ANIMAL ISSUES

Since January, The HSUS has submitted testimony to Congress in support of animal issues. We have requested:

• that $14 million be allocated to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA);
• that a substantial portion of animal-damage-control funds be allocated to study and implementation of nonlethal con-
trol methods;
• that funding be increased for investigative grants of National Institutes of Health research proposals to develop nonmammal research models;
• that funding be increased for the National Toxicology Program’s efforts to validate alternative methods to animal research (testimony presented by former senator Paul Tsongas on behalf of The HSUS and the Massachusetts SPCA);
• that expansion of animal-addiction research be prudent;
• that any federal legislation dealing with acts of violence against animal-research facilities protect those who witness and want to report violations of animal-protection laws;
• that the USDA Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture research program be expanded to give equal emphasis to animal as well as crop agriculture; and
• that an Organic Foods Production Act be passed that is responsive to the needs of animal agriculture (proposed by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy and Rep. Peter DeFazio).

**HSUS TO PROTECT GRIZZLIES**

Federal actions to protect the ten to twenty grizzly bears remaining in the Cascade Mountains of Washington have failed miserably. As a result, The HSUS and six state organizations filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March requesting the Cascade grizzly bear be classified as “endangered” under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. (The bears are currently listed as “threatened,” along with those of Yellowstone National Park and the northern Rockies.) The HSUS was expecting government action on the petition by mid-June.

**USDA TO PROTECT FARM ANIMALS**

On April 5, the USDA announced its intention to extend the protections of the AWA to “farm animals” used in biomedical research. Since 1970, the USDA has had a Congressional mandate to regulate farm animals used in biomedical research, but it has never followed through. Regulations that have been issued by the USDA do not extend the protections of the Act to the pigs, sheep, goats, and other farm animals used in biomedical research.

The HSUS, with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, filed a petition in November 1989 requesting that the USDA begin regulating farm animals as well as other warm-blooded species (birds and laboratory-bred mice and rats) that are used in biomedical research but are not protected.

In announcing its long-overdue decision, the USDA solicited suggestions for appropriate standards for such animals. The HSUS has convened a series of meetings of interested animal-protection organizations and will be submitting joint comments to the USDA.

The HSUS will also continue to urge the agency to begin protecting birds and laboratory-bred mice and rats.

**CHIMPANZEE RECLASSIFIED**

In response to a petition filed on March 21 by The HSUS, the Jane Goodall Institute, and World Wildlife Fund, the Department of Interior announced that wild populations of the chimpanzee and all populations of the pygmy chimpanzee were reclassified from their “threatened” status to the more critical “endangered” status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Captive chimpanzees remain listed as threatened and are subject to special regulation.

**THANK YOU**

The HSUS extends its appreciation to the following members of Congress who have recently introduced legislation on behalf of animals:
• Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, for introducing S. 2346, the Veal Calf Protection Act of 1990, which would mandate minimum standards for the humane care of veal calves. The HSUS was expecting government action on the petition by mid-June.
• Rep. Jack Fields of Texas and Rep. Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island, for introducing H.R. 4289, which would require the Secretary of the Treasury to prohibit the use of steel-jaw leghold traps in the United States.
• Rep. Wayne Owens of Utah, for introducing H.R. 4563, the African Elephant Preservation Act. This bill gives the President the authority to prohibit importation of all wildlife and fishery products from the People’s Republic of China unless that country agrees to stop its commercial trade in elephant products by January 1, 1991.
• Rep. James Scheuer of New York, for introducing H.R. 4604, which would end the alteration or modification of animals.
• Rep. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, for introducing S. 2169, which would require the Secretary of the Treasury to prohibit the importation of all wildlife and fishery products from the People’s Republic of China unless that country agrees to stop its commercial trade in elephant products by January 1, 1991.

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