DOLPHIN MEASURES MOVE IN CONGRESS

L andmark dolphin-protec tion legislation could be approved by Congress before it adjourns in October. On June 17 Rep. Gerry Studds of Massachusetts introduced H.R. 5419. The International Dolph in Protection Act of 1992, which would provide for a five-year global morato rium beginning March 1, 1994, on the practice of intentionally setting nets on dolphins if those nations agree to observe the moratorium, reduce dolphin mortality prior to the moratorium, and allow impartial observers on 100 percent of vessels that now use purse-seine nets to catch tuna.

HSUS FIGHTS TO MAINTAIN THE ESA

With the aid of an inten sive lobbying effort by The HSUS and its allies in the Senate, S. 3003, intro duced by Sen. John Kerry, al so of Massachusetts, is being reviewed by the Senate Com mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. That com mittee held a hearing on the bill on July 23. The HSUS was part of a coalition of groups for years to ban the prac tice of setting purse-seine nets on dolphins (see p. 19). Passage of this legislation would represent a ma jor victory for The HSUS and other animal-pro tection and environmental or ganizations that have strug gled for years to ban the prac tice of setting purse-seine nets on schools of dolphins to catch yellowfin tuna traveling with them.

The bill has been approved by two House committees and awaits a vote by the full House. The companion bill in the House, S. 3003, intro duced by Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii for sponsors dol phin-conservation legislation.
Global Warming

Habitat Protection, presented strong evidence documenting the USDA’s inability to enforce effectively the regulations of the AWA in zoos, circuses, and traveling acts. The evidence included specific cases in which exhibition animals suffered and, in some instances, died due to inadequate care.

The HSUS recommended establishment of a blue-ribbon advisory committee, including representatives from the animal-protection community, to review and recommend improvements in relevant regulations; establishment of more stringent licensing standards for animal exhibitors; development of more specific space requirements for exhibition animals; and development of more stringent guidelines for the humane handling and care of exhibition animals.

On July 30 The HSUS and other organizations met with USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services JoAnn Smith and other USDA staff to discuss the need for stricter enforcement and regulation of exhibition animals.

At least $600,000 was transferred from the ACP Fund to the Rabbits Trust Fund. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman has recently been changed to threaten because of an increase in the species’ population.

The case is under investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Any information regarding this incident should be directed to those agencies.

The New England Region Office and the Connecticut HSUS have offered a reward of up to $2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) involved in the recent deaths of two alligators found covered in red ink. Investigating officials said that the alligators had been dead for some time when found.

The American alligator has been protected under the federal Endangered Species Act since 1973. The alligator’s status has recently been changed to threatened because of an increase in the species’ population.

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