



2012- 2013

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**Alaska Travel Industry Association
Board of Directors**

Resolution # 13-5 March 28th, 2013

***A resolution of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)
recommending no rules or regulations are adopted in regard to
viewing Alaska harbor seals until further science is made available***

WHEREAS, wildlife viewing is a significant and popular activity among Alaska visitors and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska visitor industry, which comprises a variety of tourism business owners and vessel operators, has and continues to implement and participate in responsible wildlife viewing practices and vessel operations;

WHEREAS, Alaska's visitor industry members have long worked in the marine environment and have operated with respect and care for wildlife and habitats and have adhered to existing guidelines, permits, regulations and other rules; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) and request for comments regarding Alaska Harbor Seals and are seeking comments on whether or not regulations are needed to protect harbor seals from the effects of vessel activity in glacial habitats; and

WHEREAS, new regulations could have a substantial impact on the many tourism businesses operating across the state; and

WHEREAS, additional restrictions should be carefully considered and pursued with the support of sound science;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Travel Industry Association Board of Directors recommends no rules or regulations are adopted in regard to viewing Alaska harbor seals until further science is made available for public comment.

Signed this 1st day of May, 2013

Kirk Hoessle, Chair
ATIA Board of Directors

Sarah Leonard,
ATIA President & COO

Alaska Travel Industry Association
2600 Cordova Street, Suite 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2745
Ph: 907-929-2842

www.AlaskaTIA.org | www.TravelAlaska.com