

## FUR SEAL FISHERIES

*Agreement signed at Washington May 4, 1894*

*Entered into force May 4, 1894*

*Senate advice and consent to ratification May 9, 1894*

*Proclaimed by the President of the United States May 12, 1894*

*Superseded by convention signed for Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States July 7, 1911*<sup>1</sup>

28 Stat. 1202; Treaty Series 307

### AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA FOR A MODUS VIVENDI IN RELATION TO THE FUR SEAL FISHERIES IN BEHRING SEA AND THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

For the purpose of avoiding difficulties and disputes in regard to the taking of fur-seal in the waters of Behring Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, and to aid in the preservation of seal life, the Government of the United States and the Imperial Government of Russia have entered into the following temporary agreement, with the understanding that it is not to create a precedent for the future, and that the contracting parties mutually reserve entire liberty to make choice hereafter of such measures as may be deemed best adapted for the protection of the fur-seal species, whether by means of prohibitive zones, or by the complete prohibition of pelagic sealing, or by appropriate regulation of seal-hunting in the high seas.

1. The Government of the United States will prohibit citizens of the United States from hunting fur-seal within a zone of ten nautical miles along the Russian coasts of Behring Sea, and of the North Pacific Ocean, as well as within a zone of thirty nautical miles around the Komandorsky (Commander) Islands and Tulienew (Robben) Island, and will promptly use its best efforts to ensure the observance of this prohibition by citizens and vessels of the United States.

2. Vessels of the United States engaged in hunting fur-seal in the above-mentioned zones outside of the territorial waters of Russia may be seized and detained by the naval or other duly commissioned officers of Russia; but they shall be handed over as soon as practicable to the naval or other

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<sup>1</sup> TS 564, *ante*, vol. 1, p. 804.