



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Sixth Annual Tribal Assembly
October 1, 2021
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 21-11

Title: Increasing Awareness and Indigenous Management as a Means of Combating
Climate Change

By: Ralph Wolfe, Yakutat Delegate

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 32,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives and Indigenous people have inhabited our lands and waters for over 10,000 years and plan to be here for 10,000 more and Alaska Native voices and guidance are often missing from discussions and decisions related to the welfare of Alaska Natives and our lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives and Indigenous people have been living with, learning from and stewarding the lands and waters for over 10,000 years and have accumulated Traditional Ecological Knowledge that is needed in today's state of climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, management by state and federal agencies and a constant refusal to listen to and implement management suggestions from tribes has led to environmental degradation, overfishing, and continuous overall unbalanced ecosystems; and;

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Sitka Tribe of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) due to inadequate access to subsistence foods and the court ruled that ADF&G failed to document its implementation of 5 AAC 27.195, which requires managers to (a) distribute the commercial fishery over space and time to allow for a reasonable opportunity for subsistence needs to be met, and (b) consider the quantity and quality of the subsistence harvest when making those decisions; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient Indigenous representation in state and federal land management, lack of consultation on important management decisions about our traditional homelands, and insufficient communication about management with tribal entities; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses a particular threat to Alaska's coastal and arctic communities, as well as Alaska Native ways of life; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida declared a climate state of emergency in 2020, and made a commitment to identify goals and policies to bolster the Tribe's sustainability efforts and reduce its climate impact with the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050 in Resolution TA 20-25 Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Commitment to Climate Mobilization;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Sixth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened October 1, 2021, honoring the work of the Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission – a working body for Tlingit & Haida, allowing representatives from all 21 Tlingit & Haida communities, with the intent of serving as a resource and collective youth voice to tribal leaders, the Tribal Assembly, Executive Council, and other stakeholders when engaging with Tlingit & Haida Youth – on this issue, Tlingit and Haida shall become carbon-neutral by 2035 and increase restoration efforts in streams, oceans, and forests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida calls upon Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Board of Fisheries for a subsistence report on amounts collected as well as surveys on subsistence areas to be created on the same basis as commercial and sport fisheries reports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that increased Indigenous representation in state and federal land management is necessary to ensure consideration and implementation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in order to combat issues caused by current management practices; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska calls upon Sealaska Corporation and Southeast Alaska village corporations to increase education of its citizens and community members on climate change by making this a key issue in circulated Tribal and shareholder communications and sharing educational information as part of each organization's communications plan.

ADOPTED this 1st day of October 2021, by the Eighty-Sixth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe