



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 17-19, 2024
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 24-06

Title: Protecting Our Cultural and Community Access to Fish

By: Ketchikan Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 37,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, our tribal citizens rely heavily on the ability to harvest fish that account for up to 80% of the food availability in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the harvesting and processing of fish is a critical opportunity to practice and pass on our rich cultural history; and

WHEREAS, declining salmon stocks have led to area closures of fishing for personal use and subsistence harvesting; and

WHEREAS, our tribal citizens are subject to frequent and invasive demands by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) while at sea and the docks to check our compliance with daily restrictions on bag limits and retention of fish; and

WHEREAS, despite the limits and inspections imposed on our tribal citizens, ADF&G refuses to check the compliance with retention limits on out-of-state clients of charter fishing companies and fishing lodges; and

WHEREAS, we all have witnessed out-of-state people loading massive quantities of fish at our airports in obvious exceedances of retention limits and regulations without inspection or consequence; and

WHEREAS, ADF&G continues to allow charter fishing businesses operate in areas closed for personal use or subsistence king salmon by allowing “catch and release”; and

WHEREAS, at least one-third of salmon subject to catch and release fail to survive the encounter;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 17-19, 2024, hereby recommends that Alaska Department of Fish and Game check out-of-state residents' retention of fish at the airports and at fishing lodges at the same frequency they conduct dock-side inspections and strictly enforce bag and retention limits equally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if it is necessary to close an area to sport and subsistence harvesting, Alaska Department of Fish and Game close the area to all charter fishing as well;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that if closure is necessary to protect the fish stock, that subsistence harvesting must be set as a priority as described under federal law and only closed as a last resort.


ADOPTED this 17th day of April, 2024, by the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata