



Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp



RESOLUTION NO. # 13-06

Title: Grand Camp protests the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) entrapment of Alaska Native Sea Otter Hunters

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native people of Southeast Alaska hunted sea otter and traded since before contact with western society; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska Natives still use sea otter in traditional regalia for raven's tail items: such as, robes, aprons, moccasins, and headdresses, and;

WHEREAS, in 1972 the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was signed into law and established a moratorium on taking and importing marine mammals, their parts, and products. The MMPA provides protection for sea otters and other marine mammals and;

WHEREAS, MMPA permits Alaska Natives who reside on coastal Alaska areas to take marine mammals for subsistence purposes or for the use in the manufacture of Native arts and crafts; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS is responsible for the management of sea otters and other marine mammals; and

WHEREAS, there are many examples of entrapment by the (USFWS); and

WHEREAS, Federal agent stings executed on 12 Native hunters and artists in a large government operation called "*operation lutris, que*" which brought in 75 officers from different states for over a year to "enforce" the MMPA law and incarcerated Native hunters. Treats including staying overnight in their homes during which time the officer staff developed relationships and staff requested favors from Alaska Natives which led to the arrest of these 12 individuals; and

WHEREAS, a working group of Alaska Native hunters and artists met at the request of USFWS in October 2012 to provide further clarifying language to define the ambiguous term "significantly altered"; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS chose to ignore the recommendations of that working group and is promoting new language potentially more restrictive and confusing than existing language; and

WHEREAS, the original intent of the Alaska Native exemption was to protect the traditional use of marine mammals by Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the USFWS estimated the population of sea otters in Southeast Alaska to be over 25,000 animals with an average annual growth rate of 12-14 percent; and

WHEREAS, the thriving population of sea otter in Southeast Alaska sheds further criticism on the decision by USFWS to allocate federal funding and staff to entrap Alaska Natives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp meeting at Yakutat, Alaska, October 8-11, 2013 that they protest the USFWS entrapment of Alaska Native sea otter hunters.

ANB Grand President

ANS Grand President

ATTEST: I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB/ANS Grand Camp in convention at Yakutat, Alaska, during the week of October 8 through 11, 2013.

ANB Grand Secretary