



ANB/ANS Grand Camp

Ketchikan, AK October 2018



Resolution 18-16

Title: Protect Sitka Sound Herring Stock

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, addressing Alaska Native claims to ownership of Alaska's lands, based on "aboriginal use and occupancy"; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act Title VIII enacting Federal legislation granting subsistence priority for rural residents over the priority harvest of all fish and game; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska continues to aggressively promote, enhance and develop their own fish policies, procedures and management that vigorously attempt to extinguish our aboriginal way of life; and

WHEREAS, The Customary and Traditional, i.e. Subsistence, gathering and harvesting of herring eggs constitute our nutritional, spiritual, and cultural foundation for Central Council citizens since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, The Sitka Sounds herring stock is the last population of herring within the State of Alaska that provides a viable subsistence harvest of herring eggs that are shared throughout Alaska and the lower forty-eight states; and

WHEREAS, Herring are a major forage fish in Alaska waters that transfer energy from primary and secondary producers up the marine food web to upper trophic level subsistence harvested species (finfish, marine mammals, birds, etc.); and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Subsistence has documented that in 9 out of the last 17 years the amount necessary for subsistence herring egg harvest needs have not been met; and

WHEREAS, The 2017 and 2018 subsistence herring egg harvests were the lowest on record since the Sitka Tribe of Alaska began conducting subsistence herring egg harvester surveys in 2002; and



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WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has failed in its obligation to provide a reasonable opportunity for the subsistence harvest of herring eggs in the Sitka Sound area; and

WHEREAS, The Sitka Tribe of Alaska has made extensive efforts to utilize administrative processes, through the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, to amend the way the Sitka Sound area herring stock is managed to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence herring egg harvesters to meet their needs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) and the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) Grand Camp continues its support of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska efforts to protect the Sitka Sound herring stock and the rights of subsistence herring egg harvesters to meet their needs.

/s/ Sasha Soboleff, Grand President
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Cecelia Tavoliero, Grand President
Alaska Native Sisterhood

/s/ James A. Llanos Jr, Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Carol Duis, Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Sisterhood