



Curyung Tribal Council
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**Curyung Tribal Council
Resolution 2018-01**

Support for Updating Alaska Habitat Laws to Adequately Protect Salmon Spawning and Rearing Areas

WHEREAS: Curyung Tribal Council is the federally recognized Alaska Native tribe serving its tribal members and the community of Dillingham; and

WHEREAS: Curyung Tribal Council, acting as the duly recognized governing body pursuant to the Constitution of Curyung, has the authority of establishing relationships and entering into contracts for the benefit and well-being of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS: Curyung Tribal Council seeks to reaffirm its support for habitat protections that would ensure the sustainability of salmon and other salmon species to provide for healthy populations for generations to come; and

WHEREAS: Curyung Tribal Council and our members have considerable and valuable local and traditional knowledge on salmon spawning and rearing areas; and

WHEREAS: Curyung Tribal Council recognizes that economic and community development are needed in rural Alaska for *Tribal Citizens* to thrive, but believe development must be balanced with adequate protections that would reduce or mitigate negative and harmful impacts to salmon resources; and

WHEREAS: a robust fishing industry of commercial, sport, and subsistence are the bedrock of our region's economy and culture and are currently threatened by not having adequate salmon habitat protection law; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's Fish Habitat Permitting Law (Title 16) does not have strong or clear enough language to protect salmon spawning and rearing grounds; and

WHEREAS: The current law instructs the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to approve proposals for projects in or near salmon streams unless the plans are "insufficient for the proper protection of fish and game" AS 16.05.871(d); and

WHEREAS: This law needs to be updated to better define what constitutes the "proper protection of fish and game;" and

WHEREAS: Without wild salmon, our well-being, economic security, and food sovereignty are threatened; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's Board of Fisheries submitted a letter to the State Legislature in January 2017 asking for an update to Title 16: Alaska's Fish Habitat Permit Law; and

WHEREAS: We have the opportunity to strengthen the state fish habitat permitting law (Title 16) to ensure that future large-scale development projects in Alaska do not compromise the sustainability and health of Alaska's wild salmon and the social, cultural, economic, and spiritual wellbeing of the people that rely on them; and

WHEREAS: The voice of Alaska Native Tribes is powerful and critical to changing the systems that threaten our way of life, and we must act; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Curyung Tribal Council supports the Stand For Salmon Initiative and House Bill 199 the “Wild Salmon Legacy Act” to proactively protect salmon habitat, preserve our culture, and sustain our way of life.

CERTIFICATION:

This resolution was duly considered and adopted by the Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham, Alaska on January 9, 2018 of which a quorum of the Council's members was attending.

For <u>5</u>	Against <u>0</u>	Abstain <u>0</u>
Present <u>5</u>	Absent <u>2</u>	

—
Thomas Tilden, 1st Chief

ATTEST:



Evelyn Olson, 3rd Chief