

**BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. BOX 310**  
**DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576**  
**Ph. (907) 842-5257 Fax (907) 842-5932**

**RESOLUTION 2016-05**

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SB 163 AND HB 283 IN THE ALASKA STATE  
LEGISLATURE WHICH WOULD POLITICIZE ALASKA'S DESIGNATION OF  
OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RESOURCE WATERS (ONRWs)**

WHEREAS: The Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) is an Alaska Native regional non-profit corporation and a Tribal Consortium which provides a variety of educational, social, economic and related services to the Native people of the Bristol Bay Region; and

WHEREAS: The membership of BBNA is the 31 federally recognized tribal governments in the Bristol Bay Region; and

WHEREAS: The watershed of the Bristol Bay region supports the world's most prolific wild salmon runs, a revered renewable resource that has been harvested sustainably for millennia and are central to the cultural traditions of the diverse Alaska Native cultures of the region; and

WHEREAS: The commercial salmon fishery of Bristol Bay is the world's most valuable wild salmon fishery, and typically supplies almost half of the world's wild sockeye salmon. In 2010, Bristol Bay's fishery represented nearly one-third of the total Alaska salmon harvest value, and supported 12,000 fishing jobs important for Alaskans from around the state; and

WHEREAS: The Bristol Bay region has other important commercial, sports and subsistence fisheries, including many sports fisheries for numerous freshwater species in the Bristol Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS: In 2012 the BBNA Board adopted Resolution 2012-04 supporting proactive EPA action using their authority under Section 404c of the Clean Water Act to impose proposed restrictions on the development of the Pebble Deposit, but litigation has stopped the EPA from finalizing necessary restrictions to protect fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS: In 2010, a coalition of fishing, conservation and Alaska Native groups petitioned the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to designate the Kaktuli River, within the Bristol Bay watershed, as an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) in order to protect fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS: ADEC is charged with overseeing Alaska's anti-degradation policies under the Clean Water Act, including identifying ONRWs, with help from the public; and


WHEREAS: By designating a river or stream as an ONRW, no new or increased pollution discharges can occur within that body of water, and no new or increased discharges can occur in a tributary if it results in lower water quality to the ONRW river or stream; and

WHEREAS: Legislation has been introduced by Governor William Walker in the 29<sup>th</sup> legislative session on the designation of ONRWs; SB 163 and HB 283 would create significant barriers, such as requiring final legislative approval that would result in the politicization of the ONRW designation process; and

WHEREAS: It is more proper that ADEC oversees and designates ONRWs through a scientific and public administrative review process that focuses on scientific information instead of through a highly politicized legislative process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association that we urge Alaska's legislators to oppose SB 163 and HB 283 in their present forms as they will politicize Alaska's designation of Outstanding National Resource Waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BBNA urges the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to create a public, inclusive and scientifically sound administrative process for designating Outstanding National Resource Waters in Alaska without legislative approval.

  
Fred T. Angasan, Chairman of the Board

CERTIFICATION:

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Bristol Bay Native Association, do hereby certify that the Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association passed the foregoing resolution at a duly called and noticed meeting on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016, and that a quorum was present.

  
Robert Heyano, Secretary