

Nondalton Tribal Council
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Resolution # 03-05-2018-1
2018 Resolution in Support of HB 199

Changing State Law to Protect our Salmon and Way of Life

Whereas, Nondalton Tribal Council is the governing body of Nondalton, Alaska;

Whereas, Alaska Native Tribes depend upon salmon as a fundamental part of our social, cultural, economic, and spiritual wellbeing;

Whereas, Access to sustainable healthy resources for our families and our people is critical to preserving our way of life;

Whereas, Nondalton Tribal Council has made it a priority to protect our hunting and fishing resources for our people;

Whereas, Nondalton Tribal Council also acknowledges there exist multiple threats to critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat within Alaska;

Whereas, Nondalton Tribal Council finds protection of critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat necessary to provide for healthy salmon populations for future generations to come;

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

Whereas, The current law allows the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to approve proposals near salmon streams unless the plans are "insufficient for the proper protection of fish and game" AS 16.05.871(d);

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

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

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.

Whereas, On March 27, Representative Louise Stutes introduced House Bill 199 to address these shortcomings and provide the updates requested by Alaskans and Alaska's Board of Fisheries.

Whereas, Over 300 individuals from our Interior Tribal communities have signed a petition during this Convention supporting changing state law to protect our salmon resources;

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 well-being of the people that rely on them;

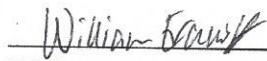
Whereas, The voice of Alaska Native Tribes is powerful and critical to changing the systems that threaten our way of life, and we must act.

Now Therefore Be it Resolved that the Nondalton Tribal Council support House Bill 199 to change Title 16, Alaska's Fish Habitat Permitting Law, to proactively protect salmon habitat, preserve our cultures, and sustain our way of life.

Now Therefore Be It Further Resolved that this shall be the policy of the Nondalton Tribal Council until it is rescinded or amended.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing resolution was passed by the Nondalton Tribal Council on the 5th day of March 2018 and that a quorum 7 was present.



William Evanoff,
President



Kristy Jeffries,
Secretary