

CHANGING STATE LAW TO PROTECT OUR SALMON AND WAY OF LIFE

- WHEREAS,** Alaska Native Tribes depend upon salmon as a fundamental part of our social, cultural, economic, and spiritual wellbeing; and
- WHEREAS,** Access to sustainable healthy resources for our families and our people is critical to preserving our way of life; and
- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference has made it a priority to protect our hunting and fishing resources for our people; and
- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference also acknowledges there exist multiple threats to critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat within Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Tanana Chiefs Conference finds protection of critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat necessary to provide for healthy salmon populations for future generations to come; 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 allows the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) to approve proposals near salmon streams unless the plans are "insufficient for the proper protection of fish and game." AS16.05.871(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,** Over 300 individuals from our Interior Tribal communities have signed a petition during this Convention supporting changing state law to protect our salmon resources; 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 42 Tribes of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors support the Board of Fish recommendations to change Title 16, Alaska's Fish Habitat Permitting Law, to proactively protect salmon habitat, preserve our cultures, and sustain our way of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this shall be the policy of the Tanana Chiefs Conference until it is rescinded or amended.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 16, 2017 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.



PJ Simon
Secretary/Treasurer

