



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
Seventy-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly  
April 9-12, 2014  
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 14-13

Title: Support in Development of a Sea Otter Native Handicrafts Marketing Cooperative

By: Ketchikan Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 29,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Central Council's tribal citizens have harvested, utilized, protected, and depended upon natural resources from Southeast Alaska's coastal waters since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Mammal Protection Act provides an exemption for Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals for subsistence or for purposes of creating and selling native handicrafts and clothing; and

WHEREAS, the exemption was intended to preserve the cultural heritage of Native Alaskans, communities, and cottage industries and allows for the formation of traditional native groups, such as cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, the current Southeast Alaska sea otter population has increased from more than 10,000 animals to more than 25,000 animals over the past decade and continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, annual native sea otter harvests for subsistence and handicrafts over the past decade have been well below annual population growth rates and traditional native uses can increase while remaining in balance with the resource and ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the Central Council and Sealaska Heritage Institute have invested in equipment and education programs for traditional sea otter pelt processing and sewing product development; and

WHEREAS, the Central Council has found that the production of sea otter pelts into handicrafts or other art products can be a significant revenue source for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, a regional, artist-owned marketing cooperative would expand marketing opportunities for Alaska Native artists and increase meaningful employment opportunities for the Central Council's tribal citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 9-12, 2014, hereby supports further work toward the development of a member-owned Sea Otter Native Handicraft Marketing Cooperative to perform enterprise functions for the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and its tribal citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska will advocate for funding from communities, organizations, state, federal and private corporations to complete a feasibility study; and

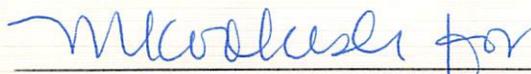
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this member-owned Sea Otter Native Handicraft Marketing Cooperative is developed in recognition of the traditional Alaska Native use of sea otter from time immemorial to promote customary and sacred rites and positive economic development.

ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2014, by the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw