



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/ 14-18

Title: Authorization and Support for Increased Customary and Traditional Harvest of  
Herring Eggs in the Sitka Area

By: Sitka Tlingit and Haida Community Council

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

WHEREAS, subsistence gathering and harvesting of herring eggs constitute our nutritional, spiritual, and cultural foundation since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, to address Alaska Native claims to ownership of Alaska's lands, based on "aboriginal use and occupancy"; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act TITLE VIII enacting Federal legislation granting subsistence priority for rural residents over the priority harvest of all fish and game; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska continues to aggressively promote, enhance and develop their own fish policies, procedures and management that vigorously attempt to extinguish our aboriginal way of life; and

WHEREAS, the subsistence use of herring eggs is a statewide tradition for Alaska Natives, as eggs are shipped throughout the State of Alaska. Herring is the life support of our ecosystem, nourishing the salmon, halibut, and marine mammals we depend on; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Subsistence has documented that in five out of the last ten years the amount necessary for subsistence herring egg harvest needs have not been met; and

WHEREAS, historically herring egg harvests occurred throughout Southeast Alaska as a result widespread, healthy, and robust herring stocks in the region; and

WHEREAS, due to overexploitation the Sitka Sound herring stock is the last stock in Southeast Alaska that can support a viable subsistence herring egg harvest that is utilized by subsistence users throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Subsistence has documented that in 7 out of the last 13 years the amount necessary for subsistence has not been met; and

WHEREAS, more conservative management of the Sitka Sound and all Southeast Alaska herring stocks would provide a greater opportunity for subsistence needs to be met and would leave more herring in the water to support the complex marine ecosystems which subsistence users rely on.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 9 - 12, 2014, demands that the State of Alaska take a more conservative approach in managing herring sac roe fisheries in Southeast Alaska to provide a greater opportunity for customary and traditional harvest, i.e., subsistence, needs to be met.

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