



2023 Winter Convention Portland, OR

RESOLUTION #2023 – 13

“REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY FUND AND SUPPORT SALMON PROTECTION, RECOVERY, AND RESTORATION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has both legal obligations to various Indian tribes under multiple treaties and a Trust Responsibility to all tribes to provide harvestable levels of salmon to satisfy treaty-secured and -guaranteed rights to salmon and to provide for a moderate income from fishing for indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, many Northwest salmon populations have gone extinct, have been listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, have otherwise declined significantly from historic levels, and/or contain various toxic substances and contaminants from human sources, the Federal Government and subordinate State governments have a duty to address this dire and unjust situation and right these wrongs; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has repeatedly adopted multiple resolutions over many decades regarding this critical issue, including most recently Resolution #2022 - 22, "Requesting the Federal Government to Establish a Federal Tribal Salmon Crisis Task Force comprised of Tribal Leaders and Intertribal Organizations to Address Salmon Recovery in the Northwest" and Resolution #2022 - 25, "We are all Salmon People, ATNI Salmon Recovery Policy Statement: A Vision and Guiding Principles to Protect and Restore a Pacific Northwest Natural Resource and First Food" (May 2022); and

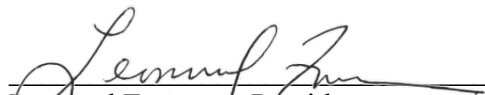
WHEREAS, Federal and State Governments have developed and adopted many plans to aid salmon and their habitats, and committed to fund them and the actions they propose, but to ensure that they are actually implemented and concrete actions are taken so that maximum benefits will be achieved on the ground as soon as possible for tribal First Foods like fish and water in the Northwest, financial support must be more specifically guided by certain principles and practices; now


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the Federal Government to embrace the following approaches to more efficiently and effectively protect, preserve, and restore salmon and their habitats: (1) streamline and consolidate federal processes, including funding, and expedite time frames, including permitting and regulatory processes to reduce burdens that impede habitat improvements and hatchery operations; (2) seek better coordination within and between agencies on funding and other matters; and (3) provide appropriate funds directly to tribes and remove unnecessary barriers to tribes' ability to implement measures such as habitat and hatchery improvements; and (4) other Tribal Projects; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Congress of American Indians.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Portland, Oregon, on January 22-26, 2023 with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary