



**ATNI Annual 2025 Convention
Suquamish, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 51

**“TRIBAL REQUESTS FROM PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER
14276; RESTORING AMERICAN SEAFOOD COMPETITIVENESS”**

PREAMBLE

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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 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 the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

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

WHEREAS, creating opportunities for Indian Nations, preservation of tribal sovereignty and protection of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, many Tribal Nations in the Pacific Northwest and beyond signed Treaties with the United States that reserved, among other rights, the right to take fish at all usual and accustomed places, in common with non-Indians—rights that are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution as the supreme law of the land; and

WHEREAS, these rights are not merely historical promises, but ongoing legal obligations that require the United States to ensure the continued existence of fishable salmon runs through effective habitat protection, restoration, and equitable access to fisheries resources; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations continue to shoulder the primary responsibility for sustaining salmon populations through hatchery programs, habitat restoration projects, and culturally grounded stewardship, despite being systemically underfunded by federal agencies tasked with upholding Treaty obligations; and

WHEREAS, even when Tribes secure federal funding, implementing projects are burdened by an unnecessarily complex, costly, and often inconsistent regulatory requirements, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR)/Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) permitting requirements, which disproportionately impact tribal restoration efforts and delay urgent projects needed to save threatened and endangered salmon runs; and

WHEREAS, Tribes are also facing a growing crisis in the marketing of tribally caught seafood, worsened by international trade barriers and competition from foreign fleets that are often less regulated, more heavily subsidized, and not held to the same regulatory standards; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's Executive Order 14276 entitled "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness" and related deregulatory policies prioritize increased domestic seafood production and competitiveness—the same urgency and opportunities need to include efforts so that Tribes' can access, restore, and manage salmon and other fish stocks in their own waters; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order emphasized removing "unnecessary restrictions" to empower American fishing communities and reduce the burden of federal red tape—parallels that clearly apply to Treaty Tribes, who are unfairly disadvantaged by layers of federal bureaucracy even as they uphold legal responsibilities far beyond what is required of commercial operators; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order emphasized removing "unnecessary restrictions" to empower American fishing communities and reduce the burden of federal red tape—parallels that clearly apply to Treaty Tribes, who are unfairly disadvantaged by layers of federal bureaucracy even as they uphold legal responsibilities far beyond what is required of commercial operators; and

WHEREAS, Tribes are not stakeholders, but sovereign nations, and the failure to provide adequate support and reduce regulatory burdens undermines the United States' fiduciary, Treaty and Trust responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Tribal treaty fisheries contribute to local and regional economies; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI) calls upon the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and all relevant federal agencies to provide increased and sustained funding for Tribal hatchery programs, habitat restoration

initiatives, and fish passage infrastructure necessary to uphold Treaty-protected salmon harvests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the federal government to streamline permitting and compliance processes—such as Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR)/Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) reviews—for Treaty and Trust Tribes engaging in restoration and resource management activities tied to Treaty obligations; and

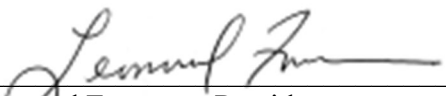
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for federal policy changes to address tariff inequities, expand marketing support for tribally harvested fish, and protect Tribal fisheries from unfair foreign competition in both domestic and international markets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI affirms that upholding Treaty and Trust obligations includes supporting the full restoration of salmon runs and the infrastructure needed to sustain them—not only through legal recognition but through direct federal action, resources, and relief from structural regulatory and economic barriers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary