



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 03

"SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DISASTER DECLARATION FISHING TRIBES"

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 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, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, all tribes of the Pacific Northwest are dependent on fisheries directly or indirectly through inter-tribal commerce for their social, economic, and cultural livelihood; and

WHEREAS, due to historical lack of funding, mismanagement, unforeseen natural and environmental causes, lack of science and resources, native spawned

fisheries harvests have been severely reduced thus mandating harvesting restrictions by tribes; and

WHEREAS, Northwest tribal communities are in extreme economic distress due to the dynamic world market, unprecedented low prices resulting from U.S. and foreign farmed and genetically modified salmon, and low returns of native spawn due to the lack of appropriate and effective actions to carry out the trust and fiduciary responsibilities of the Federal Government to tribal governments for watershed management and resource protection, resulting in the Federal listing of threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, tribes and/or states can request an Economic Disaster Declaration from the Department of Commerce in accordance to provisions under section 312(a) of the Magnuson/Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) to expedite funding assistance to mitigate the economic losses due to seasonal fishing closures; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of the Chinook Salmon, Summer Chum, and Bull Trout initiated a collaborative effort by Federal, State, Tribal and local governments, along with various industries to develop a long term plan for salmon recovery; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the shared strategy presented its regional plan for ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook Salmon to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and

WHEREAS, in January 2007, the final plan was approved by NOAA for recovery of Puget Sound Chinook Salmon; and

WHEREAS, a socio-economic impact analysis of the Treaty Tribes directly impacted by conformance to the Puget Sound salmon recovery plan and regulated closures by the Pacific Salmon Council, due to reduction of Sockeye in the Fraser River, is necessary to quantify the damages and develop a mitigation plan due to these losses; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians hereby approves the recommendation of the Natural Resource Committee to support Tribal Declarations of Emergency Fisheries Disaster for the effected fishing Treaty Tribes within the ATNI region, and to endorse the Economic Development Corporation Board to work with the sponsors to pursue all forms of funding to research, assist, plan, and quantify the damages of the fisheries in accordance to section 312(a) of the Magnuson/Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a (a)), and to assist the effected Treaty Tribes in mitigating these losses.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.

Ernest L. Stensgar

Ernest L. Stensgar, President

Norma Jean Louie

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary