



## **2010 Mid-Year Conference Grand Ronde, Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #10 - 23**

#### **"PROCLAMATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NSF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR COASTAL MARGIN OBSERVATION AND PREDICTION (CMOP) IN ITS ENGAGEMENT OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY"**

##### **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 to 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 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 the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, informed communities and improved scientific understanding of estuaries and coasts are essential for the establishment of natural resource management policies that protect ecosystem and human health and respect the cultural values of indigenous peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, the NSF Science and Technology Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction (CMOP), a partnership of Pacific Northwest universities and community affiliates led by Oregon Health & Science University, facilitates interdisciplinary research, technology development, education, and knowledge transfer in order to achieve a better understanding of physical, chemical, and biological processes regulating river-to-ocean ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, engagement of the Native American community is a core element of CMOP's mission, pursued through active and emerging collaborations with individuals and organizations in the region's Native American community including, among others: ATNI, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), Northwest Indian College, and various tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, these collaborations have the potential to support the Tribes in promoting, through educational initiatives and pathways covering the spectrum of youth-to-lifelong learning and training, opportunities for well-informed communities and well-trained professionals in environment-related fields; and

**WHEREAS**, these collaborations have the potential to support the Tribes in building, with others in the Pacific Northwest, a common science-based understanding of complex issues affecting ecosystem health, natural resources, fisheries, and sustainable development in the Columbia River basin and across estuaries and bays in Oregon and Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, these collaborations have the potential to facilitate access of the Tribes to specialized scientific and technical expertise, as they evaluate and/or implement economic activities based on ocean and environmental technologies and services; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians re-affirms its support of the NSF Science and Technology Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction (CMOP) in its engagement of the Native American community by:

- 1) recognizing CMOP's continued commitment to address the interests of Native Americans in its program activities across K-12 education, higher education, scientific research, natural resource management and community economic development; and
- 2) encouraging CMOP to continue the development of collaborations with tribal members, tribal governments and tribal organizations in the Pacific Northwest for the purpose of better understanding and reflecting Native American interests and indigenous ways of knowing; and
- 3) commending Tribal institutions that are leveraging effectively the CMOP science, education, and observation and prediction resources. Among others: the **Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)** for partnering with CMOP, in support of CRITFC's drive to become recognized as a regional center of excellence in fisheries research and policy, and a catalyst for a larger representation of Native Americans in the coastal margin workforce; the **Quinault Indian Nation** for partnering with CMOP in the observation of coastal hypoxia in the Washington shelf, as a step towards a holistic

approach to research needs off our coast; and the **Northwest Indian College (NWIC)** for collaborating with CMOP on education programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby encourages the **National Science Foundation** to extend support for CMOP from 5 to 10 years, in recognition of the unique contributions and further potential of this Science and Technology Center to bring together Tribal and western perspectives toward the development of a scientific framework to address natural resource issues in the Columbia River and Pacific Northwest Coastal Margins.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2010 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde, Oregon May 17-20, 2010 with a quorum present.

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Brian Cladoosby, President

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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary