



2011 Winter Conference North Bend, Oregon

RESOLUTION #11 - 16

**“SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF 175 GRAMS PER DAY FISH CONSUMPTION RATE
BY THE STATE OF OREGON TO BETTER PROTECT TRIBAL FIRST FOODS
AND THE NATIVE PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON THEM”**

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 the federal Trust Responsibility, 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/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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is specifically committed to the protection, restoration, and enhancement of tribal first foods (water, fish, wildlife and plants) for the perpetual cultural, economic, and sovereign benefit of Northwest native people; and

WHEREAS, significant harm to the first foods and other tribal natural and cultural resources has come from the discharge of toxic contaminants across the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, tribal members throughout the region will continue to utilize the first foods and to follow our traditional, religious and cultural practices based on their use and enjoyment, recognizing the many health benefits they provide; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) has proposed a revised rule that would establish state water quality standards for toxics based on a Fish Consumption Rate (FCR) of 175 grams per day, a ten-fold increase from the current 17.5 grams per day; and

WHEREAS, the increased FCR could lead to more stringent water quality standards that could reduce the amount of toxics discharged to the environment, providing greater protection to tribal people who consume fish and other first foods at far higher rates than the general population; and

WHEREAS, the increased FCR would benefit not only tribal people, but all citizens of the State of Oregon who consume fish and value a cleaner and more healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, an FCR of 175 grams per day and more protective water quality standards based on it would establish a significant regional and even national precedent for other states as they review and potentially revise their water quality standards and FCRs, benefiting native people throughout the country; and

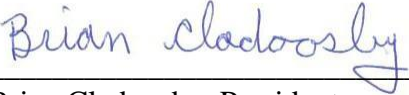
WHEREAS, ODEQ has scheduled public hearings and is accepting written comments on the proposed 175 grams per day FCR before the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) which takes a final vote on the proposal, now scheduled for June, 2011; now

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby supports the adoption of a Fish Consumption Rate of 175 grams per day by the State of Oregon to better protect tribal first foods and the native people who depend on them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI encourages its member tribes to participate in the public comment process, through oral testimony at hearings, written comments to ODEQ, or both, expressing support for the proposed 175 grams per day FCR and asking that the State of Oregon adopt it to better protect native people and our essential tribal first foods.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park, North Bend, Oregon on January 30 – February 3, 2011 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary