



2011 Winter Conference North Bend, Oregon

RESOLUTION #11 - 17

"THREATS OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF ATNI MEMBER 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, 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 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 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 the ATNI; 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, the increasing presence of aquatic invasive species in the Pacific Northwest permanently threatens the protection, restoration, enhancement, and existence of the first foods and the future of the northwest native peoples whose existence are tied to these resources; and

WHEREAS, these aquatic invasive species are by definition non-native and invading species of plants, animals, microbes, and pathogens that can and do negatively impact the land, water, fish, wildlife, and plants by their presence and once established are very difficult to remove from the environment, and in many cases become permanently established; and

WHEREAS, although the state and federal resource managers are collaborating on preventing the spread and proliferation of aquatic invasive species via working groups including the Columbia River Basin 100th Meridian Initiative Team, the effectiveness of this group will be enhanced by a greater involvement of member tribes of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the member tribes of ATNI are currently not funded or staffed appropriately to provide their unique expertise to the existing state and federal collaboration or to provide sufficient protection of first food resources against the present and future impacts from aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the States of Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington currently are the only protection for tribal first food resources against the present and future impacts from aquatic invasive species; and

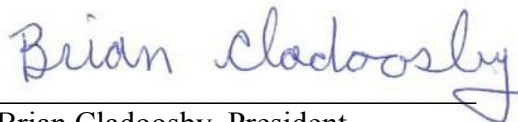
WHEREAS, ATNI supports continued state efforts to control and prevent aquatic invasive species and the threats they pose; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby encourages and promotes cooperation and coordination with local, state, and federal programs and groups to promote education and awareness of aquatic invasive species and the threat that these species pose to tribal first foods; and

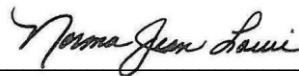
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI and its member tribes will pursue partnerships, cooperatives, and other funding opportunities that will allow them and tribal members to become more directly involved in efforts to control and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout the Pacific Northwest to protect the first food resources so critical to our culture, heritage, and future existence.

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