



2012 Annual Convention Pendleton, OR

RESOLUTION #12 - 54

"REQUESTING THAT THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACCOMPLISH A FISH CONSUMPTION RATE OF NO LESS THAN 175 GRAMS PER DAY FOR HUMAN HEALTH CRITERIA RULEMAKING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST"

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, throughout time immemorial we as the first people of the Pacific Northwest have cared for and sustained the First Foods beginning with the pure water that we hold sacred,

and guided by our traditional religious and cultural practices, we are obligated to take action now to care for the water for the next seven generations; and

WHEREAS, numerous robust, valid, reputable scientific studies unfortunately have shown that shellfish and fish, including salmon and resident fish consumed by native people in the Pacific Northwest, exposes them to toxic contaminants and poses a human health risk; and

WHEREAS, scientific surveys have shown that native people in the Pacific Northwest today eat 300 – 500 grams of fish per day which is down from historical rates of more than 800 grams per day reflecting ceremonial, subsistence and other fishing practices which are secured by treaties and executive orders with the United States; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes and appreciates that in 2011 Oregon adopted, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved water quality standards based on a fish consumption rate of 175 grams per day; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2012 the EPA disapproved Idaho's request to use a fish consumption rate of 17.5 grams per day when deriving water quality criteria; and

WHEREAS, tribes need immediate assistance from EPA to continue to build capacity to develop and in some cases update tribal fish consumption rates; and

WHEREAS, tribes in the Pacific Northwest are concerned that EPA has long had knowledge of scientifically sound data concerning known tribal fish consumption levels and yet fails to enforce existing laws (i.e., the Clean Water Act) to protect fish consuming populations and acquiesces to the very industries and corporations they regulate; and

WHEREAS, tribes in the Pacific Northwest must coordinate to protect and improve human and environmental health through water quality and sediment standards for the benefit of natural resources, First Foods, and indigenous people everywhere; and

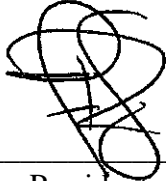
WHEREAS, adopting higher, more accurate fish consumption rates benefits not only tribal people, but all citizens, in the Pacific Northwest who consume fish and value a cleaner and more healthy environment; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request that EPA immediately take necessary and appropriate steps to establish a federal default fish consumption rate of no less than 175 grams per day for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to support and guide water quality and sediment management standards; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, and to use the EPA General Assistance Program to fund Tribal capacity efforts to develop and update Tribal fish consumption rates.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2012 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Pendleton, Oregon on September 24 – 27, 2012 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary