



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Seventy-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 9-12, 2014
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 14-30

Title: Request for Tribal Representation on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and
Bycatch Reduction for Halibut and Chinook Salmon

By: Ketchikan Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 29,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the halibut, Chum, and Chinook fisheries are critical for all Alaskans and have provided the customary and traditional harvests and livelihoods for the Tlingit and Haida people for generations; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important fishery issues in Alaska is the ongoing decline of the Chinook and halibut populations by way of high intercept and factory trawl; and

WHEREAS, the halibut resource is approaching historically low population levels and the Chinook resource are experiencing ongoing escapement failures in Alaska rivers; and

WHEREAS, subsistence, commercial, sport and recreational fishermen have faced significant harvest restrictions for the purpose of conserving Alaska's Chinook and halibut fishery resources, including closures of subsistence Chinook fisheries; and

WHEREAS, restrictive management measures have not been enough to recover Chinook and halibut populations despite considerable costs to people who rely on them for food and income; and

WHEREAS, halibut and Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries are a significant source of mortality with downstream effects for all Southeast Alaska fishery users and poses serious risks for the health and productivity of the overall resource; and

WHEREAS, the proportion of Gulf of Alaska halibut quota taken as bycatch has nearly doubled over the past decade and fishermen from coastal Bering Sea communities to Southeast Alaska communities are on the verge of losing their halibut fishery to factory trawl bycatch; and

WHEREAS, factory trawl bycatch limits for Chinook salmon remain at historical average levels while Chinook subsistence fisheries are closed and restricted within Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service and North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which make decisions that directly impact our traditional resources and the other users of the Chinook salmon and halibut, have failed to respond to the halibut and Chinook fishery declines and have not developed appropriate bycatch reduction measures needed to ensure the conservation and recovery of halibut and Chinook salmon fisheries; and

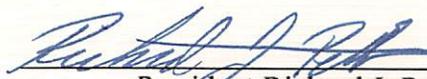
WHEREAS, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council does not include Alaska tribal representation on the council; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is developing new bycatch programs for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea halibut.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 9-12, 2014, hereby asks the United States Congress to provide for tribal representation on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and establish a statutory bycatch reduction mandate specific to the North Pacific trawl fisheries of no less than 50% from current levels for halibut and Chinook.

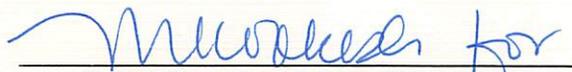
ADOPTED this 12th day of April 2014, by the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw