



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eightieth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 15-17, 2015
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 15-23

Title: Action to Reduce the Quantity of Halibut By-Catch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea
Trawl Fisheries

By: Craig Juneau Tlingit & 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 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the halibut fishery is of the utmost importance to Alaska's subsistence, sport and commercial fisherman; and

WHEREAS, coastal communities in Alaska depend for subsistence, recreation and livelihood on Alaska's halibut resource; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of North Pacific halibut has declined significantly over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, to conserve halibut stocks the commercial catch limits for halibut in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea have been reduced by 70% over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the daily halibut catch available to charter clients in the Gulf of Alaska has been reduced by over 50% in some areas; and

WHEREAS, halibut by-catch limits for trawl fisheries operating in the Gulf of Alaska have been reduced by only 15% over the same time period; and

WHEREAS, observer coverage of Gulf of Alaska trawler trawl catch fell 50% between 2013 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, halibut by-catch limits for trawl fisheries operating in the Bering Sea have not been significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, trawl by catch of halibut in the Central Bering Sea is now more than 10 times the catch allocated to historic halibut harvesters of the area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-17, 2015, hereby requests immediate action by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries by not less than 50%; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Central Council requests immediate action by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to increase observer coverage on the Gulf of Alaska trawlers to 100% and maintain observer coverage on the Bering Sea trawlers at 100%; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to all members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska Senate and House, the Alaska Congressional Delegation and Regional Tribal entities within the State of Alaska.

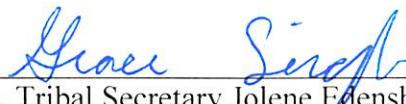
ADOPTED, this 16th day of April 2015, by the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



for Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw