



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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### RESOLUTION #BIS-02-057

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*Poarch Band of Creek Indians*

##### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Jacqueline L. Johnson**  
*Tlingit*

**Title: Supporting the Establishment of a Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission**

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American 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 the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people and their way of life, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, Southwestern Indian Tribes have developed recreational fishing programs that have evolved into important social and economic components of the Reservation economies; and

**WHEREAS**, for decades, Southwestern Indian Tribes have cooperated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the network of National Fish Hatcheries located on Indian lands in the Southwest to support these valuable recreational fishing programs; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last 30 years, the FWS Indian Assistance Program has steadily declined in priority and effectiveness primarily due to the FWS shifting priorities, such as implementation of the Endangered Species Act (and other environmental laws), and as a result, tribal recreational fishing programs and the fish hatcheries on which they depend, have been undergoing a gradual deterioration; and

#### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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**WHEREAS**, to address this problem, many of the Southwest Tribes have organized to establish a **Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission** (SWTFC), whose mission would be:

**To** enhance tribal self-determination and economic development by, expanding and restoring sport fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities in the Southwest for tribes and the general public through the tribally controlled coordination of the rearing, allocation, and stocking of fishes in tribal waters and management and conservation support for native fishes found in tribal waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the participating Southwest Tribes envision that the SWTFC would work to aggressively pursue new opportunities for cooperative fisheries management with federal, state, and private agencies in a way that maximizes not only tribal, but regional benefits as well; and

**WHEREAS**, the participating Southwest Tribes believe that the SWTFC will benefit the FWS, because it will provide a mechanism for FWS to coordinate with tribal governments in on a regional basis, which in turn would result in a more efficient use of agency resources.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support the establishment of a Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI hereby support this resolution and hereby authorize the NCAI President, Officers, Executive Committee, and other duly named representatives, to execute the directives of this resolution; and


**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

## CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2002 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Bismarck Civic Center, in Bismarck, North Dakota on June 16-19, 2002 with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Bismarck Civic Center, in Bismarck, North Dakota on June 16-19, 2002.