

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-075**

**Title: Lummi Nation Salmon Strategy**

**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, 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**, the National Congress of American Indians has a history of responding to and supporting issues of critical interests to member-Tribes and Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Tribes, Bands, and Nations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California face a crisis of historic proportions with the economic failure of the salmon industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the Endangered Species Act and the decline of the salmon industry has had, and will continue to have, a severe impact on the culture, economy, and society of Native peoples who have relied on the salmon for countless generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued decline of the salmon industry will reverse years of effort on the part of Indian Nations, Tribes, and Bands to protect and enhance the salmon stocks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lummi Nation has developed and is now implementing a short, mid, and long-term strategy to restore, protect, and enhance the salmon fishery and to ensure for future generations a sustainable economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lummi Nation is aware that other Native Nations and inter-tribal organizations in the Pacific Northwest are now developing parallel strategies to rebuild the salmon fishery; and

**WHEREAS**, history has shown that success in efforts of this magnitude requires careful coordination between Tribal governments and inter-tribal organizations in order to secure supporting in Congress, the Administration, and in the general public.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby

1. Support the efforts of the Lummi Nation and those of other tribal governments in the effort to rebuild the salmon fishery and establish truly sustainable tribal economies.
2. Encourage tribal governments and inter-tribal organizations to coordinate their efforts and work together in the development and implementation of a collective political strategy to ensure support from the Congress and Administration.
3. Calls upon the United States government and its dependent agencies to take all appropriate measures to relieve the economic hardship on Tribal communities due to the salmon crises and support the efforts of tribal governments to rebuild the salmon fishery and ensure its long-term sustainability.
4. Hereby establishes a Northwest Salmon Disaster Task Force to assist in coordinating the efforts of the Native Nations, Bands, and Tribes to develop and implement a collective salmon strategy and secure support from Congress and Administration; 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 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

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Tex Hall, President

**ATTEST:**

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Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.