



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #REN-19-006

TITLE: Support Efforts to Protect Herring and other Forage Fish

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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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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 Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian nations of Southeast Alaska are witnessing the collapse of viable Pacific Herring spawn, a "forage fish," in their territorial waters; returning herring are at the base of the food chain and represent food security and cultural health for Alaska Native people and all the Creator's living creatures in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, forage fish are a critical link in the marine food chain connecting plankton to larger marine mammals. Forage fish are prey for larger marine mammals like sea lions and humpback whales as well as tuna, salmon, and cod; and

WHEREAS, tribal nations have shared traditional ecological knowledge and engaged in scientific advocacy for generations and tribal nations have observed the decline of forage fish, including herring and decline of overall ocean health; and

WHEREAS, NCAI supports efforts to ensure an abundance of forage fish, including herring, for future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports greater inclusion of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal nations in decisions relating to the management of herring and other forage fish; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

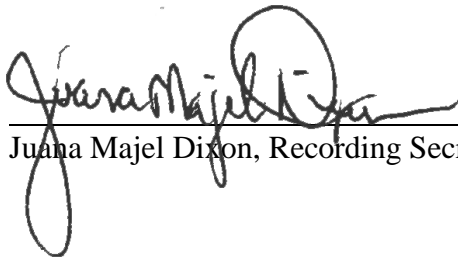
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Nugget Casino Resort, June 24-27, 2019, with a quorum present.



Jefferson Keel, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary