



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-17

TITLE: RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL SALMON HABITAT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: AFN supports food security and recognizes the cultural and religious role that Salmon plays in Alaska, advancing the cultural, economic, political, and general welfare of Alaska Natives with the protection of Native food security and subsistence rights and uses among its highest priorities; and

WHEREAS: throughout Alaska, rivers and streams have provided nutritional and cultural benefit to Alaska Native people throughout time immemorial, but in many cases, the productivity of salmon-producing rivers and streams has been degraded over the years through human development of hydroelectric projects and other projects which alter the natural flow of Alaska rivers for uses besides traditional salmon production; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people wish to restore the traditional rivers and streams for fish and wildlife habitat, traditional subsistence uses, and sustainable natural resources development; and also believe that the communal harvesting efforts and the sharing and preservation of resources like Alaska Salmon stocks are fundamental values that served to unify Natives; and

WHEREAS: our harvest and utilization of natural resources are vital to our communities' social and economic well-being and the survival of Alaska Native cultures; and

WHEREAS: many Alaska Tribes are used to working with others, including resource management agencies, conservation organizations, and electrical power utilities, to restore traditional salmon runs by river and stream restoration projects, including the return of water to river and lake systems, where water has been diverted for electricity generation and secondarily for water consumption needs; and

WHEREAS: the leaving of insufficient water flows for salmon in such river and stream systems makes them insufficient to support runs of Alaska salmon; and,

WHEREAS: the Eklutna River is just such an example of a river and lake systems in Southcentral Alaska where the traditional Tribe has been working to achieve salmon restoration and has affirmed, supported, and authorized studies to inform and to conduct restoration and enhancement of salmon habitat, and other processes to promote the natural productivity, cultural value, and appropriate uses of the Eklutna River; and

WHEREAS: Salmon have been the most important nutritional and cultural natural resource for Alaska Natives like the Eklutna people who work with others, including ANCSA Regional and Village corporations, conservation organizations, resource management agencies, and the power companies, to restore Eklutna River salmon runs by restoring water to the River from Eklutna Lake, where it is diverted for electricity generation and secondarily for Anchorage water needs leaving insufficient flows for salmon in a salmon system which once supported a run of red salmon.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives, meeting in its 2020 Annual Convention, supports efforts to restore traditional rivers and streams for fish and wildlife habitat, traditional subsistence uses, and sustainable natural resources development, and in particular, supports tribes like Native Village of Eklutna, which is actively engaged with stakeholders and policymakers to restore the Eklutna River for salmon habitat.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020