

RC 8



ALASKA FEDERATION  
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-21

- TITLE:** ELDER'S 65 YEARS AND OVER EXEMPTION FROM SUBSISTENCE RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURES
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and
- WHEREAS:** We have Elders that are the age of 65 and over and their Tribes are federally recognized Tribe; and
- WHEREAS:** These Elders are active and capable of subsistence fishing; and
- WHEREAS:** These Elders deserve to subsistence fish without any restrictions on any given day even on both State and Federal Subsistence closures; and
- WHEREAS:** These Elders from the Federally Recognized Tribes heavily depend on salmon resources to feed their families; and
- WHEREAS:** It is important that these Elders practice the subsistence way of life for both cultural and traditional way, it is an aboriginal right; and
- WHEREAS:** these Elders have lived a hard life only on fixed income all their lives; and
- WHEREAS:** During State and Federal Subsistence closures they suffer spiritually, physically, and emotionally depressed; and
- WHEREAS:** The Subsistence closures jeopardizes the health, lives, and well-being of these Elders; and
- WHEREAS:** The Congressional promise made to the Alaska Natives of restoring of the hunting and fishing rights of the Alaska Natives that is part of the Legislative history of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement remains unfulfilled to this day; and
- WHEREAS:** TITLE VIII of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) came short of restoring the hunting and fishing rights of the Alaska Natives; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocate for changes in the law that

would exempt Elders at the age of 65 years and over who are members of the Federally Recognized Tribes from any subsistence restrictions and closures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** those elders 65 years or older are no longer physically capable to fish themselves be allowed to give their proxy to an immediate family member to fish on their behalf and be exempt from any subsistence restrictions and closures; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the full Governing Body of Alaska Federation of Natives supports and passes this resolution for the sake of Elders 65 years and over who are capable of subsistence fishing no longer suffer and be exempt from subsistence closures and restrictions; including, but not limited to amending the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to accomplish this; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT** the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game contract with the Regional Tribal Consortiums to administer the issuance of subsistence permits and compiling the reports to the Department of Fish and Game for compliance.

**SUBMITTED BY:** ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

**CONVENTION ACTION:** AMENDED AND PASSED

