

CURYUNG TRIBAL COUNCIL**RESOLUTION 2023-13****A RESOLUTION URGING THE BOARD OF FISHERIES TO ADHERE TO ITS OBLIGATIONS OF SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY, SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES, AND MEETING ESCAPMENT GOALS**

- WHEREAS,** The Curyung Tribal Council (herein the “Curyung Tribe”) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe listed in the Secretary of the Interior’s annual list of federally recognized Tribes issued in accordance with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes List Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-454, see 88 Fed. Reg. 2112, 2115 (Jan. 12, 2023), and
- WHEREAS,** The Curyung Tribal Council is the federally recognized Tribe for the community of Dillingham, Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** The Alaska Native people have sustained both salmon and people by using traditional management techniques which have provided food security for millennia; and
- WHEREAS,** The Alaska Board of Fisheries is delegated the authority by the Alaska State legislature to maintain regulations managing state fisheries by using a consistent and regular public review process as outlined in AS 16.05.251 and AS 44.62; and
- WHEREAS,** At the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in February 2023 during the Alaska Peninsula meeting, Proposal 140 sought to address the chum shortages in the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Bristol Bay watersheds; all of which are identified in the 2007 to 2009 WASSIP study (Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program) as being included in the CWAK reporting group (chum salmon populations from Norton Sound, the Lower Yukon River, the Kuskokwim River, and Bristol Bay, together Coastal Western Alaska or “CWAK”); and
- WHEREAS,** The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted 5 AAC 39.222, Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, of which section (c)(4)(D) dictates that the “burden of conservation should be allocated across user groups”; and
- WHEREAS,** Under Alaska Statute 16.05.251(e), “The board shall adopt criteria for the allocation of fishery resources and shall use the criteria as appropriate to particular allocation decisions”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Alaska Board of Fisheries did not fulfill their obligation to apply the allocation criteria consistent with the aforementioned statute and under Board Finding 91-129-FB in their decision between the allocation of CWAK chum in the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay Salmon Fisheries over the Shumagin Islands and Unimak Section June Fisheries; and
- WHEREAS,** The Board of Fisheries did not take adequate actions to prioritize Maximum Sustained Yield of chum salmon of the CWAK commercial and sport fisheries through the allocation criteria; and
- WHEREAS,** The Board of Fisheries did not take adequate actions to prioritize escapement of chum salmon of the CWAK; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Fisheries did not take adequate actions to prioritize subsistence uses of chum salmon of the CWAK as required by AS 16.05.258; and

WHEREAS, Nushagak River chum salmon are part of the CWAK reporting group and have the only remaining chum salmon escapement goal in Bristol Bay; and

WHEREAS, Chum salmon of the Nushagak River watershed have not met minimum escapement goals for the past 4 years.

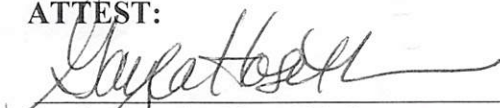
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Curyung Tribal Council requests that the Alaska Board of Fisheries follow its statutory and regulatory mandates to; prioritize subsistence uses, follow the sustainable salmon fisheries management policy, adhere to escapement goals, and protect the chum salmon of the Nushagak River before they become a stock of management concern.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Curyung Tribal Council requests that the Alaska Board of Fisheries utilize the agenda change request process to address this conservation concern as soon as possible, and until CWAK chum populations are sustainably and equitably managed once again.

CERTIFICATION:

This resolution was duly considered for authorization at a meeting of the Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham, Alaska on this 10th day of October 2023, at which a quorum of Council members were in attendance.

ATTEST:


 Gayla Hoeth, First Chief
 Curyung Tribal Council

10 October 2023
 Date

Attest:


 Teresa Seybert, Third Chief

10 October 2023
 Date

Curyung