

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2016 – 23
Fish Habitat Permitting Proposal

Native Village of Eklutna Traditional Tribal Council support for the Alaska Board of Fisheries to recommend the Alaska State Legislature clarify criteria for protective fish habitat permitting.

WHEREAS, Native Village of Eklutna is a distinct, independent political community, and as such is qualified and exercises powers of self-government by reason of its original tribal sovereignty as passed down from its ancestors since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Native Village of Eklutna's Traditional Tribal Council is the governing body of Eklutna as recognized by the Eklutna Tribe and the Federal Government of the United States; and

WHEREAS, salmon have provided nutritional and cultural benefit to the Upper Inlet Dena'ina throughout time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Eklutna people suffer from diminution of a traditional diet rich in salmon that helps protect against increasing levels of diabetes, heart disease and gastrointestinal disorders; and

WHEREAS, Native Village of Eklutna strives to protect and restore native fish populations and habitat for inherent values, including subsistence, without unnecessarily impeding sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's fish habitat permitting process (AS 16.05.871) lacks specific criteria to determine whether permitting decisions that allow development activities will adequately protect fish habitat; and

WHEREAS; The Board of Fish Sustainable Salmon Policy recognizes the importance of conserving fish habitat to maintain healthy salmon populations and protect customary and traditional subsistence uses; and

WHEREAS, The Sustainable Salmon Policy contains specific habitat protection criteria that Fish and Game should consider when making fish habitat permitting decisions; and


WHEREAS; a pending proposal requests that the Board of Fish recommend that the Alaska Legislature take action to amend the fish habitat permitting law in Title 16 to accord with the principles and habitat protection criteria in the Board of Fish Sustainable Salmon Policy, to direct Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fish Habitat Permitting decisions under AS 16.05.871.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Native Village of Eklutna Traditional Tribal Council endorses the intent of said pending proposal that the Alaska Board of Fisheries recommend that the Alaska Legislature incorporate elements of the Alaska Board of Fisheries Sustainable Salmon Policy fish habitat protection criteria, or similarly effective criteria, into Alaska Statutes Title 16 to be applied by Alaska Department of Fish and Game in development permitting decisions.

By a vote of 10 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, and absent, this resolution was duly approved on this 28th day of September, 2016, by phone and e-mail poll.



Lee Stephan, President



Angeleen Waskey, Secretary