



UNGA TRIBAL COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION 23-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF UNGA (UNGA TRIBAL COUNCIL) OPPOSING UNFAVORABLE RESTRICTIONS, REDUCED FISHING TIMES ALONG WITH NEGATIVE IMPACTS ADVERSELY AFFECTING OUR FISHERMEN AND COMMUNITIES IN AREA M DURING THE ALASKA PENINSULA/CHIGNIK BOARD OF FISH MEETINGS BEING HELD IN FEBRUARY 2023.

- WHEREAS,** the Native Village of Unga (Unga Tribal Council) is sovereign, federally recognized Tribe and the Unga Tribal Council is the governing body of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Unga Tribal Council realizes the importance of the established long term fisheries in the Eastern Aleutians, a fishery that our Unangan Ancestors have utilized for over 9,000 years for both subsistence and commercial use; and
- WHEREAS,** our fishermen have faced adverse obstacles that have been put forth upon them and no other area within the State of Alaska has been constantly under attack from others whenever fish are missing, we Eastern Unangan Aleuts automatically are blamed for conservation problems occurring in other area; and
- WHEREAS,** for our Indigenous, Unangax fisherman fishing in the Eastern Aleutians of Area M our fishery is important to the Economic welfare of our people, our communities, our livelihood and mainstay economy; and
- WHEREAS,** the issues of the AYK Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim crisis will not be solved by shutting down or severely reducing our indigenous fishermen's livelihoods in order to ensure the survival of other fisheries; and
- WHEREAS,** research strongly states poor marine smelt survival is linked to the changing oceanic conditions, extreme warm ocean temperatures, the lack of available food sources contributing to a decline in fish, notably not the fishery we are dependent upon, the Area M fishery; and
- WHEREAS,** salmon declines are complex in nature, our oceans are huge, the diminishing of a species is complex in nature, accurate representation of data and science must be central to any decisions regarding a fishery, entailing a larger scope of area not targeting one specific area; and

WHEREAS, we are opposed Proposals 106, 109, 119, 120, 126, 128, 133-143, 148-150 proposals threatening our livelihood, our culture, our ability to provide for our families, our existence within the area if passed having an adverse effect on the economic wellbeing of our fishermen; and

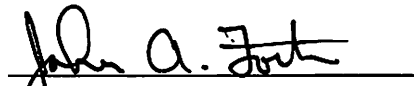
WHEREAS, our fishery, small in nature, has been in existence since time immemorial, it is not just the economics of our fishery but a vital part of our history and without access to the salmon fishery we utilize we too can become history; and

WHEREAS, any prolonged closures, unreliable fishing schedules for us not only affects our fishermen and their families, they also affect our seafood processors due to lost markets, reduced productivity, idle plant employees, industry employees along with the existence of the communities we currently live in; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Unga Tribal Council strongly opposes Board of Fish Proposals 106, 109,119, 120, 126, 128, 133-143, 148-150, proposals that adversely affect our fishermen, our livelihood, our communities we currently live in.

CERTIFICATION:

This resolution was duly considered and adopted at a meeting of the Unga Tribal Council (Native Village of Unga) in Sand Point, Alaska on February 6, 2023 at which a quorum of Council Members were in attendance. For 5, Against 0, Abstain 0, Present 5.



President, John Foster

ATTEST:



Secretary, Dwain Foster Jr.