

**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

FOOD SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES

ACTION PLAN

In order to achieve full and lasting protection for our hunting, fishing and gathering way of life, and a co-equal role in managing the fish, wildlife and other renewable resources that we rely upon for our economic and cultural existence, we, the First Peoples of Alaska, gathered at the Alaska Federation of Natives 2012 Convention, will take the following major actions:

1. Advocate for the revocation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act extinguishment of aboriginal hunting and fishing rights.
2. Develop and seek enactment of federal legislation that will restore and protect Native hunting and fishing rights in Alaska. As an initial step, we will seek a congressional oversight hearing and field hearings in Alaska on the status of our rights to food security, customary and traditional hunting and fishing rights and the right and need for self-determination to protect and maintain these rights and way of life. (**Resolution 12-18**)
3. Understanding that different regions may have different needs and region-specific approaches, advance and support legislation that will ensure the opportunity for Native management of subsistence resources on Native lands, and a unified management system throughout tribal traditional hunting and fishing territory through co-management with Alaska Natives.
4. Seek legislative, administrative and policy changes that will mandate an ongoing and meaningful role for Alaska Natives in the federal management program, including tribal compacting and contracting of significant aspects of the federal management program to tribal organizations.
5. Develop Administrative and Policy measures, including interim steps that the President and his Administration can take to ensure Alaska Natives are able to pursue their subsistence activities, including additional reforms to the Federal Subsistence Board such as designating the two public seats as Native seats, and ensuring adequate funding for subsistence management. [**Tribal Recommendation**]
6. Continue to defend in the courts the federal regulations that extend Title VIII's jurisdiction to waters in which the United States has a reserved water right, and support efforts to expand federal jurisdiction to waters up-stream and down-stream from federal enclaves and to Native allotments. *Alaska v. Salazar/Katie John v. US (Katie John III)* is currently pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A decision is expected soon. AFN is an intervening party in that case. If the State loses, we can expect an effort to obtain review by the US Supreme Court.

7. Utilize International Human Rights mechanisms to promote and protect our culture and subsistence way of life. As an immediate step, we will urge the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous peoples to more closely examine food security issues in Alaska, and to report on the situation to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations as a supplement to his August 30, 2012, Report on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
8. Participate in Federal Subsistence Board meetings to advocate for revisions to the methodology used to review rural/nonrural status of communities in Alaska, and the restoration of the rural status of the Native Village of Saxman and similarly situated Native communities that have been declared nonrural.
9. Work with the Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) in seeking amendments to Section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) that will enhance co-management by authorizing Harvest Management Agreements between the federal agencies and Alaska Native Tribes and Organizations. Also, petition the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of US Fish & Wildlife Service to adopt regulatory language clarifying “significantly altered” for purposes of sea otter handicrafts **(Resolution 12-10)**.
10. Continue efforts to obtain an amendment to the Federal Duck Stamp Act to expressly exempt the customary and traditional subsistence harvest of migratory birds in Alaska from the Act’s requirements that all hunters purchase and carry Duck Stamps.
11. Support the efforts of the Native members of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) to increase their management capacity and strengthen their management role through securing a federal budget line, compacting AMBCC functions, making clear the strong co-management role of the MBCC, and the full protection of customary and traditional Native uses of migratory birds through changes in federal policy or amendments to federal laws and treaties, including amending the definition of “Indigenous inhabitants” of Alaska to “Alaska Natives” in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and an exemption for the use of non-eatable parts of migratory birds taken for subsistence purposes by Alaska Natives **(Resolution 12-11)**
12. Work with Alaska Native Tribes and organizations to explore the creation of an Alaska Native Hunting and Fishing Commission that unifies the strengths and efforts of those Native organizations engaged in managing and protecting these rights.
13. Advocate for a tribal seat for Alaska on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and for additional research concerning the Chinook and Chum salmon by-catch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery and in the Russian Economic Zone. **(Resolution 12-20)**
14. Request North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to adopt management measures through consultation with affected tribes that will protect salmon runs at levels that will ensure abundant and sustainable subsistence harvests, including review of Chinook salmon by catch management measures, and advocate for habitat protection for the Zhemchug and Pribilof Canyons. **(Resolution 12-20)**

15. Support efforts of the Governor and Congressional delegation to enact and fund disaster declarations for Chinook salmon throughout the State and ask them to direct federal funding of no less than \$5 million per year for 8 years to the Aortic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative to address salmon research and restoration. Also ask the State Legislature to fund essential research on declining salmon stocks through the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative. **(Resolutions 12-17 and 12-19)**
16. Work with the State of Alaska on resource management to ensure resources are managed on a sustainable basis, and that subsistence users receive priority in times of shortages. Also, urge the State of Alaska to give subsistence users a greater say in policies that impact their ability to hunt and fish in customary and traditional use areas.
17. Request that the State consult with the Native community on research priorities and share the State's research, especially on the bycatch issues. **(Tribal Recommendation)**
18. Work with the Department of Fish and Game to improve their online harvest reporting **(Resolution 12-19)**
19. Develop Administrative and policy measures and/or pursue Congressional action as necessary (reference AFN Resolution 09-11), to clarify that the duty to manage fish and wildlife populations to provide a subsistence priority to rural residents also applies to the appropriate federal land management agencies (not just the Federal Subsistence Board or the Office of Subsistence Management) in that they must also give deference under Section 805(c) of Title VIII of ANILCA) to the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils with respect to activities such as predator management.
20. Work with the Alaska State Legislature, our Congressional delegation, NGO's like the Y/K Intertribal Watershed Councils, YRDFA, KRSMWE, Canadian First Nations, established Indian Fish Commissions, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the federal subsistence management system, and others in establishing traditional and western scientifically-based Alaska Native Fisheries Commissions in areas that have been utilized to harvest fish to sustain our way of life since time immemorial.
21. Advocate for a Constitutional Amendment to Alaska's Constitution that would recognize Alaska Native subsistence rights **(Resolution 12-07).**
22. .Work with the State Legislature and Federal agencies and Congress to obtain an exemption for tribal elders (65+) or their proxy, from subsistence closures & restrictions. **(Resolution 12-07)**
23. Work on improving relationships within the Native community to accomplish the following internal goals: **[Tribal Recommendation]**
 - Encourage tribes to write down their oral laws and work to have them incorporated into the regulatory system;

Subsistence Action Plan (as amended to incorporate the AFN Convention Resolutions on Subsistence and the Recommendations from the NCAI/AFN Tribal Leaders Conference) - 11/20/12

- Encourage more unity among Native organizations; Native people need to unite behind a strategy on subsistence.
- Create a fund to implement subsistence recommendations
- Encourage young people to take management positions in key organizations that deal with subsistence issues
- Consider boycotting business that do not support our subsistence rights