

Sample Tribal Government Resolution

Tribal Government of _____

Resolution No.

ENTITLED: Establish Heritage Zones to protect our subsistence resources and the subsistence food web to ensure our cultural survival.

WHEREAS: The Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea are currently being exploited by commercial bottom trawl and pelagic trawl fishers at a rate that is degrading the overall health of these waters; AND

WHEREAS: Localized depletion in the vicinity of Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska communities is contributing to the decline of all subsistence foods and forcing fishing dependent communities to travel far offshore in search of fish that were once readily available on our coasts; AND

WHEREAS: The oceans upon which we depend and their abundant resources are being given out to private enterprises: i.e. crab rationalization, pollock, cod fish, and halibut quotas, without any regard to the needs of our communities; AND

WHEREAS: As the stresses upon these resources continue to grow; competition for them increases, strains on the economic and subsistence needs of our communities will grow as will the pressures on the health of their habitats; AND

WHEREAS: Our Tribal Government is charged with the protections of our culture, heritage, environment and our foods upon which we have depended upon for centuries, and recognize the need to establish protections from which these resources originate and breed; AND

WHEREAS: The silent but ever growing dangers of climate change will bring many as yet unforeseen challenges to our way of life, including changes to our historical and cultural use of certain subsistence foods;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Tribal Government of _____ supports creation of Heritage Zones to ensure habitat protections for the foods upon which we depend. To further the establishment of this designation, we request the following actions:

1. Continued research and development of Heritage Zones and how they will be established to help our people; and
2. Development of criteria upon which these Heritage Zones will be identified and supported before State and Federal regulatory agencies; and
3. Notify our State and Federal agencies, our Congressional Representatives, State

Representatives, our Governor, regional and local organizations that such a program is being developed; and

4. Work with our elected representatives and policy makers to establish protections for these Heritage Zones.