



## **2016 Winter Convention Suquamish, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #16 – 12**

#### **“SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF PACIFIC LAMPREY AND THE PACIFIC LAMPREY NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP”**

##### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, promotion of the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunities of native people and preservation of their cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI recognizes the importance of Pacific Lamprey as a traditional food and cultural resource that has been decimated by the loss and degradation of its natural habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, the restoration of Pacific Lamprey and its natural habitat is high priority of the tribes of the Pacific Northwest; and

**WHEREAS**, a Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement has been signed by eleven tribes, five states and seven federal agencies to create regional consensus around the need for national attention and funding to be directed at Lamprey restoration throughout the Pacific Northwest; and

**WHEREAS**, the restoration of Pacific Lampreys, because of their unique life history and critical ecological role, should broaden the natural diversity and improve habitat for other aquatic species in rivers along the west coast of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan identifies the importance and value of increasing the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species, and is a tool to enhance protection and restoration of these aquatic habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing a National Fish Habitat Partnership for Pacific Lamprey will elevate national attention to the restoration needs for Pacific Lamprey and their importance to tribal cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement, in conjunction with the National Fish Habitat Partnership represents a commitment of a diverse coalition of parties to collaborate in a variety of ways and means to restore Pacific Lamprey, but is not binding on any party and does not in any way limit the tribes of the Pacific Northwest to act independently to restore Pacific Lamprey; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI recognizes that the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement, as a full Partner within the National Fish Habitat Partnership, will significantly increase the national awareness of the rapid decline of Pacific Lamprey populations throughout the Pacific Northwest and will increase national awareness of the Native American determination to restore these culturally important populations; now

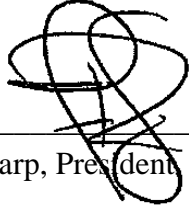
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the Pacific Lamprey Fish Habitat Partnership as a full partnership in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls upon the United States and all of its appropriate governmental branches and agencies to work with tribes on a government-to-government basis to restore Pacific Lamprey; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution be delivered to the Board of the National Fish Habitat Partnership and request the Pacific Lamprey Fish Habitat Partnership report on their progress to ATNI within one year of the Partnership formation.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2016 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Suquamish, Washington on February 1- 4, 2016, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary