



President
Vice President
Secretary-Treasurer
Council Members

John Wayne Melovidov
Myron Melovidov
Robert Melovidov Sr.
Michael R. Zacharof
Amos T. Philemonoff Sr.
Jacob N. Merculief
Shiona Melovidov

Resolution 2024-01

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO BOTTOM TRAWL RESEARCH PROJECT IN THE NORTHERN BERING SEA

WHEREAS, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island (the Tribe), is the federally recognized tribe for St. Paul Island, as listed and recognized by the United States under 84 CFR 1200; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul is the representative sovereign government for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul is the authorized body through which Unangan of St. Paul Island can fulfill our intrinsic rights and responsibilities, and support, recollect, practice, and pass on our culture; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government, through the Tribal Council, is determined to lead efforts to ensure and strengthen sovereignty, ensure a healthy ecosystem that supports food security, economic self-sufficiency, continued cultural practices, tribal self-determination and self-governance, and the overall health, safety, wellbeing and welfare of Tribal Members; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government recognizes that decades of research and hundreds of academic publications have irrefutably illustrated that bottom trawling is destructive to benthic habitats and species therein; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government recognizes that the broader Bering Sea ecosystem is wholly connected to and interwoven with the Northern Bering Sea, including the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government recognizes federal research activities are actions requiring prior consultation and coordination with federally recognized Tribes that may be impacted by such research and its results; and,

WHEREAS, Tribes and Tribal organizations have not been collaborated nor consulted with since the early stages of proposed bottom trawling research in the Northern Bering Sea area, including the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government, through the Tribal Council, supports and stands with our brothers and sisters, respecting and uplifting their sovereignty and recognizing the devastating crisis they are currently undergoing with a loss of access to vital subsistence resources; and,

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) has proposed to conduct bottom trawl research within the Northern Bering Sea, including the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, involving bottom trawl gear on undisturbed tracts of sea floor to determine the effects of trawling on benthos and benthic species; and,

WHEREAS, the nature of the controlled study means the study area will be off limits to subsistence fishing, hunting and other activities within its boundary for multiple years; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government, through the Tribal Council, does not support expansion of commercial bottom trawl fisheries into the northern Bering Sea and believes this research will facilitate that expansion; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Tribal Council is opposed to bottom trawl research in the Northern Bering Sea, supports a precautionary approach to recovering the health of the Bering Sea ecosystem, including protecting the Northern Bering Sea in a time or rapid change; and desires the Northern Bering Sea be designated such that it is permanently prohibited for vessels using bottom trawl gear to operate in the area; and request NOAA to cease plans for any and all proposed research that uses gear types that are destructive to the benthic habitat of the area. Further, we support Kawerak, Inc. Resolution 2023-09, and encourage NOAA AFSC to rapidly make significant steps forward with regard to Tribal consultation, engagement, and outreach, as well as co-production of knowledge.



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Adopted through a poll vote of Tribal Council on this 30th day of October ,2023 of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, and 1 absent.

John Wayne Melovidov
President

A large, stylized blue ink signature of John Wayne Melovidov is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "John Wayne Melovidov" and the title "President" are printed in a standard black font.

Attested by:

Robert Melovidov, Sr.
Secretary

The text "Attested by:" is followed by a blue ink signature of Robert Melovidov, Sr. written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Robert Melovidov, Sr." and the title "Secretary" are printed in a standard black font.

