

QAGAN TAYAGUNGIN TRIBE

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RESOLUTION # 04-09

Support of Research on Shark Populations

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON SHARK POPULATIONS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.

WHEREAS, the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (A/PIA) is the Alaska Native regional non-profit tribal organization with members consisting of the thirteen (13) federally recognized tribes of the Aleutian Chain and Pribilof Islands regions of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, A/PIA exists to promote the overall economic, social, cultural, health, and environmental needs of the unaga (Aleut) People; and

WHEREAS, global climate change and a regime shift in the Bering Sea has enhanced the suitability of habitats to support invasive shark species; and

WHEREAS, repeated information from traditional knowledge and local fishermen supports increased observations and negative interactions with sharks including gear entanglement and by-catch; and

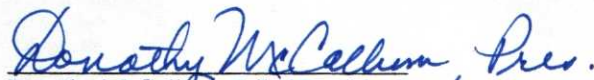
WHEREAS, baseline data on shark populations and distribution and the effects of increased predation on salmon populations are unknown; and

WHEREAS, current and complete information including changing populations and distribution is essential for effective management and to understand species interactions and potential competition,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. states their unanimous support for research on shark populations and requests that the research community support efforts to investigate sharks in the Aleutian and Pribilof Region.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 30th day of MARCH, 2004.

In vote of 4 for, 0 against, and 0 abstain.


Dorothy McCallum, Tribal President

ATTEST:


Susan McGlashan, Secretary/Treasurer

Resolution Description

RESOLUTION NO. 04-09

In Support Research on Shark Populations

This resolution looks similar to the Invasive Species Resolution presented to the Board last fall. However, this resolution is only concerning sharks and not other invasive species. This shark specific resolution is needed to bring additional attention to the federal and state agencies in charge of management and regulatory enforcement, namely NMFS, ADF&G, USFWS, and NPFMC. Two previous attempts to secure funding were denied due to the agency's lack of awareness of the shark issue, brought to A/PIA's attention by traditional knowledge and fishermen reports of observations and negative interactions. This issue is timely in the context of the controversy surrounding the Area M Salmon Fishery, from which most of the shark observations have come.