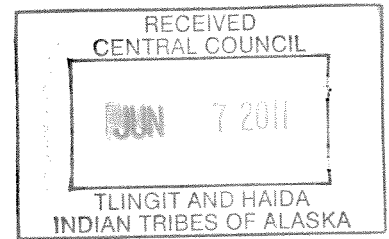


STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR
333 RASPBERRY ROAD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518-1599
PHONE: (907) 267-2353
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June 2, 2011

Mr. Edward K. Thomas, President
Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
320 West Willoughby Avenue, Suite 300
Juneau, AK 99801-1726

Dear President Thomas:

Thank you for your letter and for forwarding resolutions 11-27, 11-38, and 11-40, adopted during the Seventy-Sixth Annual Tribal Assembly in April 2011. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) greatly values its partnerships with traditional resource managers and welcomes public input from resolutions with interest. Given the Central Council's long-standing interests in the resources mentioned in the resolutions, I especially appreciate your concerns about sustainability of Alaska's unique resources.

Your letter noted, "11-27 Stop Commercialization of Black Seaweed." ADF&G, consistent with its letter to you in May of 2005, has not issued any commercial harvest permits for taking of black seaweed since 1999, and has no intention of doing so in the future. As discussed then, the primary reason ADF&G has denied permit application requests for black seaweed was that ADF&G has little knowledge regarding the status or abundance of it. Another significant reason those permit requests were denied is because ADF&G is aware of the importance of black seaweed as a subsistence food resource.

Regarding the resolution addressing the distribution of herring and herring products, ADF&G strongly supports the sustainable customary and traditional harvest and sharing of these resources, and recognizes that these resources are an important aspect of many Alaska residents' seasonal year-round cultural foundations. ADF&G values its partnership with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska in the harvest assessment of herring in that community.

Alaska state law is clear, however, that only Alaska residents may participate in subsistence activities, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) may not adopt regulations that allow non-residents to participate in subsistence fisheries. As members of the executive branch, BOF and ADF&G follow and uphold current state law. Thus, a final response to Resolution TA/11-38 rests with Alaska's lawmakers.

ADF&G also strongly supports the proxy fishing and hunting programs, in which an Alaska resident may harvest resources for another Alaska resident who is 65 years of age or older, blind, or disabled. More information about the proxy program is posted on our website at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUseProxyFishing.main>.

I appreciate the impetus behind Resolution TA/11-40. While a portion of the proxy program also falls under state statute, and is the purview of Alaska's legislative bodies for potential change, if the proxy program is not meeting the needs of your members, I encourage you to work with your local Fish and Game advisory committees to seek an additional regulatory response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hazel Nelson".

Hazel Nelson, Director
Division of Subsistence

Cc: Commissioner Cora Campbell
Director, Jeff Regnart, Division of Commercial Fisheries