WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Central Council does not support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s and National Marine Fisheries Service regulatory definition of Alaska Native as it applies to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and it’s requirement of “blood quantum” in the regulations; and

WHEREAS, Central Council feels the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should abide by definitions within the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, which states, "an Alaskan Native means a person defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) as a citizen of the United States who is of one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian (including Tsimshian Indians enrolled or not enrolled in the Metlakatla Indian Community), Eskimo, or Aleut blood or combination thereof. The term includes any native, as so defined, either or both of whose adoptive parents are not natives. It also includes in the absence of minimum blood quantum, any citizen of the United States who is regarded as an Alaskan Native by the native village or group, of which he claims to be a member, and whose father or mother is (or, if deceased, was) regarded as native by any native village or native group. Any such citizen enrolled by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 5 of ANCSA shall be conclusively presumed to be an Alaska Native for purposes of this part"; and

WHEREAS, the term "native village or town" means any community, association, tribe, Band, clan or group.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-First Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 20-22, 2016, hereby requests the removal of "blood quantum" in the definition for hunting marine mammals and request this definition be changed to recognize descendancy that could be proven by tribal enrollment cards, BIA Blood Quantum Certificates or other proof of descendancy.
ADOPTE this 22nd day of April 2016, by the Eighty-First Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe