



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Fourth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 10-12, 2019
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 19-29

Title: Opposition to Changes in Alaska's Water Quality Criteria as it Applies to Mixing Zones

By: Ketchikan Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 31,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, salmon and clean water are the backbone of our communities and culture;
and

WHEREAS, salmon populations are on the decline due to adverse conditions in the Pacific Ocean, increasing the need to protect the fresh water spawning and rearing grounds that act as a refuge; and

WHEREAS, mixing zones are a variance to water quality standards designed to protect aquatic life and habitat to allow the dilution of pollutants dumped into the water in excess of those standards; and

WHEREAS, since 2003 Alaska's approved water quality criteria does not allow mixing zones to be permitted in salmon spawning and rearing reaches of our rivers; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has proposed changes to the Water Quality Criteria that would provide exemptions to current standard of not allowing toxic mixing zones in anadromous waters and habitats that support salmon; and

WHEREAS, these exemptions would allow pollutants into the spawning habitat as long as they do not "result in permanent or irreparable displacement of indigenous organisms" to the detriment of individuals and populations of salmon;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 10-12, 2019, hereby opposes changes in Alaska Water Quality Criteria that would allow exemptions to the ban on mixing zones in anadromous fish habitats.

ADOPTED this 11th day of April 2019, by the Eighty-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe