CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Ninety-First Annual Tribal Assembly
September 23-25, 2026
Juneau, AK

Resolution TA 26-29

Title: Requesting the United States Federal Government, the State of Alaska Board of Fish, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Ban Trawling in Alaska

By: Sitka Tlingit & Haida Community Council and Wrangell Tlingit & Haida Community Council/ Delegates Charlie Skultka Jr, Luella Knapp, and Ken Hoyt

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, there has been mismanagement and sea floor destruction, and out of control sea floor bycatch; and

WHEREAS, large, weighted nets are dragged across the sea floor; and

WHEREAS, annual total bycatch corporate trawler fleet averages roughly 141 million pounds of bycatch every year; and

WHEREAS, this equates to roughly 16,000 pounds of wasted sea life per hour of bycatch totaling about 1 million pounds of vital sea life every 2.5 days; and

WHEREAS, key species affected by this unintended catch consists of millions of pounds of King Salmon, halibut, opilio crab, tanner crab, and rockfish; and

WHEREAS, as a result, there have been fishing closures in Kodiak and Fort Yukon; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida, through President Peterson and executive leadership, has prepared and sent letters raising the issue of bycatch and is on record opposing trawling in Alaska due to its detrimental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Tlingit & Haida Community Council and Wrangell Tlingit & Haida Community Council want to ensure that bycatch and addressing this issue is a top priority of the Tribe and that resources and staff are directed towards this issue;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened September 23-25, 2026, hereby establishes that addressing the issue of banning fish trawling and bycatch is a top priority of Tlingit & Haida;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida calls on the United States Federal Government, the State of Alaska Board of Fish, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to immediately ban trawling for the maximum benefit of the people of Alaska and to provide the maximum sustainable yield.

ADOPTED this 25th day of September 2026, by the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Michelle D. Martin