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

Resolution TA 26-31

Title: Calling on the State of Alaska to Establish an Anti-Discrimination Policy and Complaint Process for Claims of Discrimination and Harassment by State Troopers

By: Sitka Tlingit & Haida Community Council / Delegate Alicia "Lisa" Gassman

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, the State of Alaska Anti-Discrimination Law (Alaska Equal Rights Act of 1945) passed on February 16, 1945, and prohibited racial discrimination in public accommodations, and

WHEREAS, Kunaa, also known as Redoubt, is a stream within the Sitka Territory that was conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to Sealaska and is managed by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Tribal citizens and ANCSA shareholders utilize the stream at Kunaa for the taking of various salmon species; and

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the Sitka Tlingit & Haida Community Council that certain State of Alaska Troopers have been actively boarding boats of Tribal citizens fishing during peak harvesting times to check harvest permits, amounts harvested, for clipped fins, and safety gear; and

WHEREAS, the perception of Tribal citizens is that the true purpose of boarding boats is discrimination and is meant to intimidate and/or harass the individuals for minor issues; and

WHEREAS, the perception that Tribal citizens are being harassed or discriminated against appears to be founded because other citizens of Sitka fishing for other purposes, such as charter fishing boats and charter captains and their clients getting fish for charter purposes are not similarly being boarded and checked to ensure compliance with license requirements, amounts taken, and compliance with all regulations related to charter fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Tlingit & Haida Community Council believes the boarding of Tribal citizen boats is not an isolated incident and wants to ensure there is a specific law/policy enacted and a system established for citizens to file formal complaints and/or pursue legal action as appropriate;

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, calls upon the State of Alaska to enact laws specifying there shall be no discrimination in enforcement of hunting and fishing regulations and ensuring there is an established process for filing a complaint against any State Trooper that is perceived to be harassing or intimidating Tribal citizens exercising their right to Haa Kusteeyi / Tlagw íitl' x̲íinangaa g̲íidang ("Our Way of Life") by fishing in the waters around Sitka and specifically at Redoubt;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida requests if complaints show that there is a particular issue with any specific Trooper, that the Trooper be reprimanded or terminated, as appropriate;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida will, as necessary, seek additional resources should it be necessary to protect against discrimination or harassment.

ADOPTED this 23rd 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 Jacqueline L. Pata