



**KAWERAK, INC.**

RESOLUTION 2023-01

*REPRESENTING*

**Brevig Mission**

*Sitaisaq*

**Council**

**Diomede**

*Iᅇaliq*

**Elim**

*Niviarcaurluq*

**Gambell**

*Sivuqaq*

**Golovin**

*Chinik*

**King Island**

*Ugiuvak*

**Koyuk**

*Kuuyuk*

**Mary's Igloo**

*Qawiaraq*

**Nome Eskimo**

*Sitnasuak Inuit*

**Savoonga**

*Sivungaq*

**Shaktoolik**

*Saktuliq*

**Shishmaref**

*Qikiqtaq*

**Solomon**

*Aᅇuutaq*

**St. Michael**

*Taciq*

**Stebbins**

*Tapraq*

**Teller**

*Tala*

**Unalakleet**

*Uᅇalaqᅇiq*

**Wales**

*Kinigin*

**White Mountain**

*Iᅇaluik /*

*Nutchirviq*

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REDUCE CHUM SALMON BYCATCH IN  
THE BERING SEA**

**WHEREAS**, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), in association with the National Marine Fisheries Service, is charged with responsible management of marine fisheries resources in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, Kawerak, Inc. is a tribally authorized non-profit Tribal consortium whose mission is to assist, promote and provide programs and services to improve the social, economic, educational, and cultural well-being of the people within the Bering Strait region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribes of the Bering Strait region include: Brevig Mission, Council, Diomede, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, King Island, Koyuk, Mary's Igloo, Nome, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Solomon, Stebbins, St. Michael, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales and White Mountain; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bering Strait region has experienced long-standing problems related to chum abundance, and Western and Interior Alaska have collectively experienced sharp declines in recent years, all amidst long-running waste of chum through bycatch in the Eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery; and

**WHEREAS**, subsistence fishing activities are a priority for the residents of the Bering Strait region and constitute a vital role in our cultures and traditions, and these activities have been negatively impacted by the loss of chum salmon from our region's rivers; and

**WHEREAS**, our Tribes and communities are committed to our traditional values of not wasting, sharing, respect, and reciprocity (among others), including in relation to salmon and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering developing measures to reduce incidental chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery; and

**WHEREAS**, Kawerak, Inc. believes the explicit goal of the NPFMC, the pollock industry, and the National Marine Fisheries Service should be zero bycatch of chum salmon; and

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Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.

**WHEREAS**, proposed alternatives must adequately recognize the importance of this issue to the Tribes of the Bering Strait region and other western Alaska and Interior communities, and emphasize the devastating impacts of chum bycatch on the cultures, traditions, health and economies of our regions; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Kawerak, Inc. requests that the NPFMC take steps, beginning with analysis and including implementation of regulation, towards significant reduction of chum bycatch in the Eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery; strive towards a goal of zero bycatch across all species, including chum and chinook; promote improved data collection, modeling and technology to effectuate these conservation goals; and incorporate Alaska Native Traditional Knowledge and values, and meaningfully collaborate with Tribes in the process of doing this.

#### CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Chairman and Secretary of the Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Board during a duly called meeting on March 15, 2023.

By: *Frank Keldorff*  
Kawerak Board Chairman

*Kirsten Timbers*  
Kawerak Board Secretary

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