



**ALASKA FEDERATION  
OF NATIVES**

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**2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**RESOLUTION 12-08**

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR THE BOARD OF FISH GENERATED PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ADD PACIFIC HERRING TO THE STATE OF ALASKA'S FORAGE FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN
- WHEREAS:** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) represents 178 villages (both federally recognized tribes and village corporations) 13 regional Native corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortia; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN's mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native Community; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN advocates for the protection of subsistence rights and resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Pacific herring and herring eggs have been an integral part of the Native culture throughout the State of Alaska since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS:** Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasi*) are considered an ecological and cultural keystone species; and
- WHEREAS:** Pacific herring are forage fish that are prey to upper trophic level fish and marine mammals that Alaska Natives depend upon for subsistence; and
- WHEREAS:** throughout the world biologist recognize Pacific herring as a forage fish species that play a crucial function in maintaining the health of the world's marine ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska's Board of Fish recognizes that, "forage fish perform a critical role in the complex marine ecosystem by providing the transfer of energy from the primary and secondary producers to higher trophic levels" (5 AAC 39.212(b)); and
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska has failed to acknowledge herring as a forage fish by listing Pacific herring under its Forage Fish Management Plan (5 ACC 39.212); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in recognition of the crucial role herring play in the marine ecosystem and the Native culture of Alaska, the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the State of Alaska to support and implement the Board of Fish generated proposal to have herring added to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: TABLED

