



# ALEUT COMMUNITY OF ST. PAUL ISLAND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

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## RESOLUTION 2007-09

### *A RESOLUTION TO NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE SUPPORTING CHANGING OF OR A MORATORIUM ON NORTHERN FUR SEAL SUBSISTENCE HARVEST REGULATIONS*

WHEREAS, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, is a federally recognized Tribe of Alaskan Natives having a common bond of living together on St. Paul Island, Alaska, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul is the representative government for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul promotes, maintains, and protects cultural practices, awareness, preservation, self-governance, and self-determination for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul co-manages the northern fur seals with the National Marine Fisheries Service via a comanagement agreement signed in June 2000, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul recognizes that our land and sea resources are basic and important natural resources and that these resources are of vital concern for our people, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul protects the cultural practice of consuming traditional foods from the immediate environment of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and;

WHEREAS, our Tribe has traditionally and historically engaged in the subsistence fur seal harvest, subsistence hunting in the spring and fall for fur seal, and subsistence hunting of fur seal pups in the fall, and;

WHEREAS, the organized annual subsistence fur seal harvest is authorized by the Fur Seal Act and 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes, and;

WHEREAS, the hunting of subadult male fur seals and fur seal pups has been historically allowed by the National Marine Fisheries Service, even though it is inconsistent with 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul through facilitation of the subsistence take of northern fur seals for 22 seasons since 1985, experienced changes invalidating the existing regulations governing the subsistence take of northern fur seals, such as, changes occurring in the shift from a commercial fur seal to a commercial fisheries industry, the development and use of comanagement agreements between the our community and the National Marine Fisheries Service, a shift in research projects previously stopping harvesting from certain haulouts, and the subsistence needs of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul has formally requested the National Marine Fisheries Service change 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes on numerous occasions, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul has identified a need to change 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes to allow for:

1. the legal take of historically allowed fur seal harvest/hunts, and
2. the flexibility to adapt to the subsistence needs of the members of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and
3. full implementation of comanagement of the subsistence take of all northern fur seals on St. Paul Island.

WHEREAS, the Tribal Government of St. Paul recently discovered that National Marine Fisheries Service could issue a moratorium on 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Government of St. Paul request that the National Marine Fisheries Service begin the process immediately for changing 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes, and,.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Government of St. Paul request that National Marine Fisheries Service issue an immediate moratorium on 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes, and;

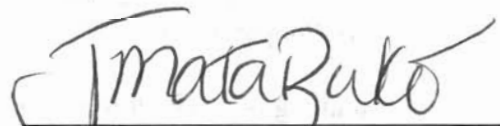
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Government of St. Paul request from National Marine Fisheries Service written receipt/acknowledgement of this resolution and written confirmation of a commitment to work with the Tribal Government of St. Paul via the comanagement process and agreement to change or issue a moratorium on 50 CFR Section 216 Subpart F—Pribilof Islands, Taking for Subsistence Purposes.

Adopted in a duly convened meeting of the Tribal Council on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2007 of 6 in favor 0 opposed 0 abstain 1 absent.

Attested by:



Robert Melovidov, Sr.  
President



Jessica Mata Rukovishnikoff  
Secretary-Treasurer