



Bering Sea Elders Group

BERING SEA ELDERS GROUP

RESOLUTION 2018-4

TITLE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BOTTOM TRAWL BOUNDARY TO PROTECT THE FISHERIES AND HUNTING IN THE NORTHERN BERING SEA

Whereas, the Bering Sea Elders Group (BSEG) is a tribal consortium and is comprised of designees of 39 federally recognized Tribes on the west coast of Alaska; and

Whereas, through our federally recognized Tribal governments, we have the right to participate fully in all levels of decision-making in policies that affect our Tribes, our Indigenous Knowledge, and to exercise our government-to-government rights; and

Whereas, the Bering Sea is part of our identities as Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Inupiaq people, and is as important to us as the land; and

Whereas, the Bering Sea Elders Group was formed a decade ago out of a mutual concern in our regions about the problems associated with bottom trawling; and

Whereas, the Tribes that are members of the Bering Sea Elders Group represent Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Inupiaq people who rely on subsistence and commercial fish, marine mammals, and other traditional and irreplaceable resources found in the Bering Sea; and

Whereas, bottom trawling poses a significant threat to the ability of BSEG Member Tribes to hunt and fish as we have since time immemorial with assistance from the revenues from Community Development Quota (CDQ) Incomes; and

Whereas, for the last decade, the Bering Sea Elders Group has worked to support, maintain, and strengthen the existing bottom trawl boundary at the lower end of the Northern Bering Sea Research Area; and

Whereas, the Bering Sea Elders Group has passed multiple resolutions opposing the lifting or movement northward of the bottom trawl boundary; and

Whereas, the Bering Sea Elders Group continues to be vehemently opposed to any weakening or movement of the current bottom trawl boundary; and

Whereas, in order to protect subsistence hunting, fishing, and northern CDQ fisheries, the current boundary should remain where it is and be made permanent.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Bering Sea Elders Group requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council not lift or move northward the current bottom trawl boundary; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Bering Sea Elders Group requests that the bottom trawl boundary be made permanent where it is or be moved farther offshore.

ADOPTED by the tribally designated Elder Representatives of the Bering Sea Elders Group, and signed on behalf of those Tribes during its Annual Summit held in Anchorage, Alaska on this 20th day of September, 2018.