



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
(P): 615-872-7900 • (F): 615-872-7417

USET Resolution No. 2010:012

**SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL PARTICIPATION ON NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors recognizes that the United States oceans have been severely overfished, resulting in one-third of the nation's fish stocks being depleted, and
- WHEREAS,** overfishing has had a serious impact on the numerous Indian Tribes having a long tradition in oceanic fishing as the stocks are no longer available for subsistence; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) formed eight regional fishery management councils during the 1980's to provide recommendations on how to govern the fish stocks; and
- WHEREAS,** these NMFS Regional Councils continue to meet, but have failed to accomplish effective governing strategies and have failed to address Tribal concerns, including:
- The NMFS Regional Councils must limit the number of fish caught to ensure conservation;
 - They must allocate allowable catch to satisfy the commercial fishing industry;
 - Tribes are not represented on the NMFS Regional Councils and do not have a voice in the recommendations;
 - Membership of the NMFS Regional Councils consists of 90% fishing interests; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian and Alaskan Natives have requested the United States Congress review the lack of effectiveness of the NMFS Regional Councils with the intent to improve the management of stocks; and
- WHEREAS,** several USET member Tribes have been severely impacted by the mismanagement of the ocean stocks, including the Narragansett Indian Tribe, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and Passamaquoddy Tribes of Maine; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly recommends that Indian Tribes be represented on the National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Councils in the USET area to ensure Tribal concerns to protect, preserve and enhance fish stocks are addressed.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribe, Inc.

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.