



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2012:011

SUPPORT OF LISTING THE AMERICAN EEL AS THREATENED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) was a mainstay in the diets of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indians in Maine, the only state with commercial fishing for elvers and whose main market is overseas; and
- WHEREAS,** American eels are a traditional source of food for the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Tribes, are culturally and spiritually important, and are an important link in the food chain of aquatic species, such as striped bass and bluefish; and
- WHEREAS,** the population of American eels is in serious decline due to dams restricting their migration routes to traditional freshwater habitat, pollution of rivers, and overfishing by the non-Indian population; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has received a petition from the Council for Endangered Species Act Reliability to extend federal protection to the American eel under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA); and
- WHEREAS,** the USFWS has initiated a 60 day status review period and is requesting information to help determine if listing of the American eel as threatened under the ESA is warranted; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the listing of the American eel as threatened under the Endangered Species Act for reasons stated above, provided the threatened status does not interfere with Tribal traditional use of same.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on Thursday, November 10, 2011.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.