

SITKA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-1

A DECLARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SITKA AREA

WHEREAS, the Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee (SFGAC) are 17 publicly elected representatives of Fish, Wildlife, Conservation, and Subsistence interests in the Sitka area; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the SFGAC is to recognize and comment on issues affecting the conservation, sustainability, and sharing of wildlife resources in the Sitka Area; and

WHEREAS, members of the SFGAC and the constituents they represent are noticing dramatic changes in the Sitka environment, including but not limited to, melting of local ice fields, much warmer ocean water temperatures, ocean acidification, disappearance of fish such as sand lance and capelin, sea star wasting disease, depleted sea bird populations, pink salmon collapse in much of northern SE Alaska, and greatly increased hungry brown bear activity in Sitka; severe weather events from droughts, floods, intensive storms, landslides, and generally more severe weather patterns which cause impacts to our local wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the SFGAC is aware of climate science reports, recent Alaska Federation of Natives declaration of "a state of emergency on climate change", and our responsibility to advise the Board of Fisheries (BOF) and Board of Game (BOG), Sitka, and others on our perspective; and

WHEREAS, the SFGAC has a long history of leadership in recognizing local problems and providing leadership in proposing solutions that often are adopted regionally and statewide; and

WHEREAS, the traditional, experiential, and scientific information and observations already presented to the SFGAC over the past year clearly tell the story of unprecedented ecological problems associated with climate change; and

WHEREAS, the SFGAC recognizes its responsibility to share its learning with the BOF and BOG, our community, and local, state, and national leaders and ask them to take action; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Edgecumbe and Sitka High Environmental Clubs, who represent over 15 communities and at least 4 different tribal groups across the State of Alaska who are facing hardships directly correlated with Climate Change, such as changing ocean conditions and precipitation patterns that adversely impacts the fisheries and ecosystems for which they rely on for culture, subsistence and economy, our ability to generate hydroelectricity, the occurrence of algae blooms and paralytic shellfish poisoning, coastal erosion, the integrity of our infrastructure, and the health and safety of our people have asked the SFGAC to support their resolution declaring a climate change emergency (attached).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SFGAC declares a "CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY" in the Sitka area and requests the Sitka Assembly, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, local, regional, state, and national groups, the BOF and BOG, the Alaska Legislature, Governor Dunleavy, and our congressional delegation to join us to recognize and to take effective action needed to address this emergency.

CERTIFICATION:

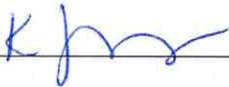
PASSED and APPROVED by the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee this 13th day of November, 2019.



Jon Martin, Chair, Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee 16-Nov-2019
Date

ATTESTED:





11/16/19
Date