**Passamaquoddy Tribal Sovereign Declaration**

**State of Emergency In the St. Croix River**

With countless past generations and future generations in our hearts and minds we the undersigned Passamaquoddy Chiefs declare a state of emergency. This state of emergency exists within the heart of our Passamaquoddy Homeland.

We have come to learn that our ancient Life-Giver the Schoodic River (now known as the St. Croix River) is in a state of serious distress and immediate action must be taken to remedy this distress. We have a sacred relationship with the River and life contained within the River. We recognize that the St Croix River Ecosystem and related Natural Communities have an inalienable and fundamental right to exist, flourish and evolve. We also recognize that the River has a right to be clean and flow unobstructed and that the fish have a right to spawn and to live out their natural history and life cycles.

We have shared this river with indigenous sea-run fish such as Atlantic Salmon, Shad and Alewife. The Creator has blessed the Passamaquoddy with an abundance of food fish upon which our culture is defined and without which we would not have survived. We are now saddened to learn that the Atlantic Salmon, Shad and Blueback Herring are near extinction in this River and that the Alewife are threatened with extinction.

For the past 17 years Maine has harmed the Passamaquoddy People by blocking anadromous fish from accessing its ancient and traditional spawning grounds in the upper St. Croix River. This action severely diminished a traditional food source and disturbed our cultural practices. We insist the State of Maine immediately remove this blockage and allow these fish to pass. Failing this, we urge the International Joint Commission to exercise its authority and open this blockage.

Chief Cleaves, Sipayik _____

Chief Socobasin, Motahkomikuk _____

Chief Akagi, Qonasqamkuk _____

Date: June 14, 2012