St. Croix River and Alewife Resolution
Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe 9/26/12#1

Whereas: since time immemorial the Schoodic River watershed, now known as the St. Croix River, has been the natural spawning ground and ancient homeland for several species of sea-run fish such as Atlantic Salmon, Shad, Blueback Herring and Alewife, and

Whereas: the quantities of sea-run fish ascending the St. Croix River was so great that historical records described it as something "almost miraculous", and

Whereas: the river's watershed created an ideal nursery environment for spawning fish, making the St. Croix a river of great fertility and productivity which generated an abundance of nutrients and food for countless other fish and wildlife species within the watershed and within the saltwater regions of the Passamaquoddy Bay and the Bay of Fundy, and

Whereas: sea-run alewife are a vital link in the food chain of the St. Croix River and are known as the "fish that feeds all" and has sustained the Passamaquoddy for thousands of years, without which we may not have survived, and

Whereas: the Passamaquoddy have a unique cultural and historical relationship with the river ecosystem and the fishery within the river, and

Whereas: the Passamaquoddy have the duty to protect and preserve the river system, the indigenous food fishery, sustenance fishing and saltwater fishing rights of the Passamaquoddy people so that future generations will continue to survive, and

Whereas: the St Croix River ecosystem and related Natural Communities have a fundamental right to exist, flourish and evolve, and the river has a right to be clean and flow unobstructed, and the fish have a right to spawn and to live out their natural history and life cycles, and

Whereas: man's activities have seriously upset the productivity and natural balance of the river ecosystem and life cycles of the native fishery and has put this unique river ecosystem into a state of distress, and immediate action must be taken to remedy this distress, and

Whereas: Atlantic Salmon, Shad and Blueback Herring are now near extinction and the Alewife are threatened with extinction, and

Whereas: marine species such as cod, haddock, pollock, whales and porpoise are dependent on such a high energy food source as the alewife, and

Whereas: for the past 18 years Maine law has blocked sea-run alewife from accessing its natural and ancient spawning grounds in the St. Croix River watershed, and

Whereas: this blockage has harmed the Passamaquoddy People by severely diminishing an important traditional sustenance food source and disturbing the cultural practices of the tribal members, and

Whereas: the Joint Tribal Council agrees with and supports the June 14, 2012 Passamaquoddy Chief's Declaration of a State of Emergency within the St. Croix River, and

Whereas: the Joint Tribal Council believes that Maine's law blocking sea-run Alewife on the St. Croix River has resulted in a devastating loss of sea-run fish in Passamaquoddy waters and has reduced the productivity of the ecosystem and the availability of native food sources thus disturbing Passamaquoddy culture in a way that is contrary to the Settlement Act

So, Now therefore be it Resolved

That: the Joint Tribal Council insist the State of Maine immediately remove this blockage and allow the sea-run alewife to pass to access their ancestral spawning territory. Failing this, we urge the International Joint Commission to exercise its authority and open this blockage, and

That: the Tribal Representative to the Maine Legislature is authorized to submit, sponsor and support legislation requiring the Grand Falls dam fish passage be ordered open for sea-run alewife, and

That: the Tribal Chiefs are authorized to take appropriate action to open the fishway at Grand Falls for the free passage of sea-run alewife and to restore the indigenous fishery within the St. Croix River Watershed

Be it finally Resolved

That: all previous Joint Tribal Council Resolutions pertaining to the Alewife are null and void. This resolution supersedes all previous Joint Tribal Council decisions relating to alewife passage in the St. Croix.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, do hereby certify that a meeting of the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe was held at the Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Reservation on September 26, 2012, and do further certify that a quorum of the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe consisting of either the Sakom/Chief or the Leptanet/Vice-

Chief of each Reservation and not fewer than eight voting members, including at least four voting members from each Reservation, was determined by a roll call taken and recorded at the beginning of the meeting and present at the time of the action certified hereby, and that the foregoing Resolution was circulated in writing to all members of the Joint Tribal Council present at the said meeting prior to being voted upon at the meeting, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly moved, seconded and adopted by the affirmative vote of 10 members, who at the time of the vote constituted a majority of the 10 members of the Joint Tribal Council then present and voting.

Dated: Oct 1, 2012, 2012 ATTEST: Mary J. Lola

Mary J. Lola, Clerk
Joint Tribal Council
Passamaquoddy Tribe