



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
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President's Weekly Update 1.29.21

Wáasá iyatee, Gasing.uu dang Giidang! I hope that you enjoy this updates for this week. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to learn more about anything mentioned. Have a great weekend!

Traditional Food Security Initiative

An important issue we have heard from our communities is food security. Many of our communities are seeing food shortages like never before in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic and ongoing issues with the Alaska Marine Highway System. In response to this, Tlingit & Haida has stood up a new Food Security department to ensure we can protect, enhance, and provide for our way of life for generations to come.

Our way of life and gathering our traditional foods impacts every aspect of our communities (physical and emotional health, economy and commerce, transportation, etc.). The Biden Administration has indicated that co-management is a key initiative and we plan to hold them to their word.

As the Food Security department builds out, it will work closely with our newly formed [Southeast Alaska Tribal Fish & Game Advisory Board](#). Our families and communities deserve food security and we look forward to partnering with tribal leaders from across the region to push our policy priorities.

Board of Fisheries Meeting

Despite strong opposition, the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries recently voted to move the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting to Anchorage, Alaska. The decision to move this meeting outside of Southeast Alaska not only disenfranchises us, it hinders our ability to have our voices heard.

There will be critical policy decisions being made at this meeting that can significantly impact our way of life in Southeast Alaska. Over 150 proposals are slated to be considered on king salmon, enhancement and special harvest areas, commercial salmon, herring, crab, groundfish, shrimp, as well as personal use, sport and subsistence fisheries.

We must all do what we can to ensure our voice is heard in this process. Written comments on all proposals are being accepted through February 23, 2022.

For more information on the Board of Fisheries meeting, visit: www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2021-2022/se_meeting_rescheduled.pdf.

Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy

Tlingit & Haida has submitted a Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy investment proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has recommended the following investment ideas:

- Alaska Youth Stewards
- Cultural Interpretive Training
- Food Security, Subsistence & Sovereignty
- Climate Change
- Indigenous Guardians
- Wildland Fire

This work aligns very closely with the Indigenous Guardians program as we work towards a true co-management relationship with the USFS. We will be working to finalize the agreement with the USFS in the coming weeks.