

Native Village of Saint Michael

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Resolution 24-08-08

Support for the Protection of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge for Black Brant Conservation

WHEREAS, the Native Village of St. Michael is one of the 573 federally recognized Tribes in the United States of America, and one of the 227 federally recognized Alaska Tribes by the United States Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of St. Michael is the governing body of the Native Village of Paimiut and serves at the pleasure of the Tribal Members of the Native Village of St. Michael; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of St. Michael is fully authorized to act on behalf of the Native Village of St. Michael Tribal members in matters arising under the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, P.L. 93-638, as amended, 25 U.S.C. 450 et. Seq (hereby the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of St. Michael, as a sovereign Tribal government, holds a deep respect for the natural environment and recognizes the importance of preserving ecosystems for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, located in the Alaska Peninsula and encompassing critical habitat for wildlife, including the black brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*), serves as a vital migratory stopover and breeding ground for numerous avian species; and

WHEREAS, the black brant, a species of concern, relies heavily on the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge during its annual migration, utilizing the refuge's rich intertidal habitat for feeding and resting, thereby playing a significant role in the ecological balance of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge faces various threats, including proposed development projects and changes in land management practices that could negatively impact the refuge's ecological integrity and disrupt the black brant's habitat; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Native Village of St. Michael to advocate for the protection and preservation of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and its critical importance for black brant conservation, in alignment with Tribal values and stewardship principles;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Traditional Council of the Native Village of St. Michael that:

Section 1: The Native Village of St. Michael reaffirms its commitment to the protection and preservation of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge as a critical habitat for black brant and other wildlife species.

Section 2: The Traditional Council hereby expresses its strong support for measures aimed at conserving and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, including opposing any development projects or land management practices that could harm the refuge's wildlife habitat.

Section 3: The Native Village of St. Michael calls upon federal, state, and local authorities, as well as relevant stakeholders, to prioritize the long-term protection of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and to collaborate with Tribal governments and conservation organizations in efforts to safeguard this vital ecosystem.

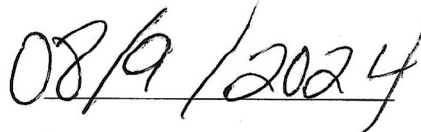
Section 4: The Traditional Council authorizes the Tribal Administrator to transmit copies of this resolution to appropriate government officials, agencies, and entities to convey the stance of the Native Village of St. Michael on the protection of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

Section 5: The Native Village of St. Michael formally requests the USFW to fully analyze the marine alternative in the Izembek Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and the Native Village of St. Michael formally opposes a road through the Izembek Refuge; and we support the selection of the marine alternative as it is least impactful to the fragile habitat within the Refuge.

I hereby certify that the Native Village of St. Michael adopted this resolution on August 8, 2024 with a quorum being established. This resolution was passed by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstain.



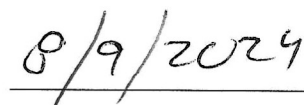
President, Native Village of St. Michael



Date



Secretary



Date