

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

RESOLUTION NO. 23-08

of the

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe, its members, its lands, its enterprises and its agencies by the authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Squaxin Island Tribe, as approved and adopted by the General Body and the Secretary of the Interior on July 8, 1965;

WHEREAS, under the Constitution, Bylaws and inherent sovereignty of the Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources and rights of the Tribe;

WHEREAS, the Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe possessing reserved powers, including the powers of self-government;

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council has been entrusted with the creation of ordinances and resolutions in order to fulfill their duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources of the Tribe;

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe's wholly owned enterprise Salish Seafoods in partnership with the Tribe's Natural Resources Department made use of shellfish settlement funds, obtained in payment for the loss of the Tribe's treaty fishing rights with respect to shellfish within its usual and accustomed fishing areas, to undertake habitat and other enhancements to increase the geoduck population growing on Squaxin Island, the original reservation of the Squaxin Island Tribe; and

WHEREAS, that effort has proven successful, and the sale, harvest, transport, and processing of geoduck from the enhanced Island beds has yielded profit to Salish Seafoods, an arm of the Squaxin Island Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has, from time to time, returned to its membership a portion of the earnings from these treaty fishing activities; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Council wishes to memorialize a defined method of distributing profits from these activities; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, earnings from the shellfish settlement funds have proved inadequate to fund shellfish enhancement activities; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe lacks funding for certain key capital projects;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that existing and future revenues from the geoduck harvest by Salish Seafoods shall be distributed as follows:

First, to pay necessary and reasonable expenses reasonably attributable to the geoduck revenue;

Second, to establish and replenish as necessary a reserve account, in the amount of \$500,000, to pay for shellfish enhancement activities approved by Tribal Council if and when funding provided under Resolution 15-36 is inadequate;

Third, to return fifty percent of any funds remaining to Tribal members.

Fourth, to fund such capital projects as may be identified from time to time by Council from any funds remaining. Until otherwise indicated by Council that project will be the design and construction of a new wellness center.

Allocations and distributions under this Resolution will be calculated and made annually by Salish Seafoods each December from revenues earned the previous fiscal year, except an initial allocation and distribution of funds accumulated through FY 2022 will be made in July 2023.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council has determined that any payment made to members under this Resolution shall be tax-exempt by reason of Internal Revenue Code § 7873, and that no income tax shall be withheld nor shall any garnishment or other withholding be made, whether for Tribal or third party debt, with respect to the payments authorized by this Resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that said distribution shall not be paid directly to any incarcerated Tribal member and shall instead be paid to an identified payee or held in trust in accordance with the existing policies and conventions of the Tribe regarding member distributions.


CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the special meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council, held on this 23rd day of March, 2023, at which time a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 5 for and 0 against, with 0 abstentions

Kristopher K Peters

Kristopher K Peters (Apr 4, 2023 09:07 PDT)

Kris Peters, Chairman

Attested by  _____
Patrick Braese (Apr 4, 2023 09:09 PDT)

Patrick Braese, Secretary

Jaimie Cruz

Jaimie Cruz (Apr 5, 2023 11:28 PDT)

Jaimie Cruz, Vice Chairman












SIT - Geoduck 2023

Final Audit Report

2023-04-05

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