

Submitted
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Bay Mills Indian Community

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RESOLUTION NO. 16-2-1

Support for H.B. 5255 and Prohibition of Net Pen Aquaculture in Great Lakes Waters

- WHEREAS: The Bay Mills Indian Community is a federally recognized Indian tribe with a Constitution enacted pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C. sec. 461, *et seq.*, and
- WHEREAS: The Bay Mills Indian Community has the right, among others, to harvest fish in the Michigan waters of Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron, which was reserved in the Treaty of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491), recognized in *United States, et al., v. State of Michigan*, Case No. 2: 73 CV 26, (W.D. MI), and in *People v. LeBlanc*, 399 Mich. 1, 248 N.W.2d 199 (1976), and
- WHEREAS: The fishery resources of the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes are subject to the Tribe's right to harvest, and to federal court decrees which declare and enforce the Tribe's right and obligation to protect and manage the fishery so as to ensure the continued viability of the ecosystems which enable the fishery to continue to provide subsistence and income to treaty fishers for generations to come, and
- WHEREAS: The continued viability of the Great Lakes ecosystem to support the fishery resources native to these waters requires careful and consistent monitoring of water quality, identification of contaminants and pollution sources, remediation of water quality degradation, protection from invasive species and initiation of efforts to control and reduce their numbers, and
- WHEREAS: The introduction of net pen aquaculture in the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters presents a significant and unjustified risk to the continued viability of these waters to provide adequate water quality and food sources for the native fish species now and in the future.
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Council of the Bay Mills Indian Community hereby approves and supports the enactment by the Michigan Legislature of H.B. 5255, which prohibits net pen aquaculture in Michigan's Great Lakes waters.