



SERVING THE  
VILLAGES OF:  
BREVIG MISSION  
COUNCIL  
DIOMEDE  
ELIM  
GAMBELL  
GOLOVIN  
KING ISLAND  
KOYUK  
MARY'S IGLOO  
NOME  
SAVOONGA  
SHAKTOOLIK  
SHISHMAREF  
SOLOMON  
STEBBINS  
ST. MICHAEL  
TELLER  
UNALAKLEET  
WALES  
WHITE MOUNTAIN

**Kawerak, Incorporated Resolution**

**RESOLUTION 2017- 06**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FORMAL INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION**

- WHEREAS:** Kawerak, Inc. is an Alaska Native regional non-profit tribal consortium made up of the 20 federally recognized tribes of the Bering Strait region of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** the Bering Strait region, contains exceptional ecological diversity; and
- WHEREAS:** Villages in the region have a deep cultural reliance on the harvesting and sharing of marine resources for subsistence. The Yup'ik, Inupiaq and Saint Lawrence Island Yupik peoples benefit from the waters of the northern Bering Sea. Indigenous practices tie families together through the passing of knowledge from one generation to the next; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bering Sea is one of the most productive high latitude seas, sustaining traditional communities and a world-class commercial seafood industry; and
- WHEREAS:** the northern Bering Sea hosts a diversity of marine mammal species, including Pacific walrus, ice seals, whales, polar bear; and
- WHEREAS:** The protection of the world-class natural resources in the Bering Sea, including economically and culturally valuable fisheries, and the ecosystem which sustains them, is in the highest public interest; and
- WHEREAS:** International shipping regulated by the IMO can impact these natural resources. As shipping increases throughout the Arctic and Bering Sea due to climate change, tribal and indigenous perspectives at entities like the IMO are needed to provide input on mitigating potential impacts, especially on issues related to accidental oil spills, toxic ship emissions and wastewater/ballast water discharges that can impact the environment and wildlife that indigenous peoples here have depended on for thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS:** There is still no formal indigenous entity or body that has official consultative status at the IMO or with the US Delegation to the IMO; and
- WHEREAS:** Many decision-makers and stakeholders involved with the IMO processes can benefit from the knowledge of indigenous peoples in the Arctic and Subarctic. A formal indigenous presence at the IMO can also more directly involve tribes on issues and processes in international shipping regulations that can impact their people and region.


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by Kawerak, Inc. that it requests that the US Delegation to the International Maritime Organization to work with tribes, tribal consortia and other indigenous groups to set up processes and mechanisms to more formally involve indigenous peoples at the International Maritime Organization.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Kawerak, Inc. urges other stakeholders and decision-makers to work together to create capacity and funding for indigenous peoples to have a more formal presence at the International Maritime Organization and its related processes.

Signed:   
Frank Katchatag, Chairman

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, the undersigned Secretary of Kawerak, do hereby certify that the Full Board of Directors of Kawerak, Inc. duly passed the foregoing resolution on the 6th of April, 2017 at a duly called and convened meeting, and that a quorum was present.

Signed:   
Kirsten Timbers, Secretary