



Sitka Tribe of Alaska Presents . . .

**March 2009**

## *The Council's Voice* by Council member Tom Gamble

**Thank you Tribal Citizens for your involvement & support at meetings and public functions in 2009. Your input and time commitment is vital to the success of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's programs.**

Greetings:

In preparation for the State of Alaska Board of Fish meetings held in Sitka February 17-26, the primary focus of STA meeting agendas in January and February was herring. Herring is arguably the most important issue discussed at the Sitka Tribe to date, however, the Tribal Council utilizes a strategic planning process that matches employee visions/goals with a 10 year strategic plan established by the Council in 2004 to prioritize issues impacting the Tribe. The staff/council annual implementation plans are approved and progress reviewed by the Council twice a year at a retreat to ensure that Federal/State/local legislative priorities, as well as the Tribal Needs Assessment (Citizen Survey), are faithfully administered through tribal programs.

Other priorities are added by Council members/staff/citizens as they arise—usually a result of direct communication with Tribal Citizens. Consistent with Chairman Widmark's previous statement—Tribal Citizens are encouraged to attend Council meetings. If you have a legitimate issue to assist STA or would like to discuss or share ideas, I encourage you to contact me or any other Tribal Council member to share your concerns or comments at a regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting held the first Wednesday at 12:00 noon or the third Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

STA staff, Council members and tribal citizens welcomed Senator Albert Kookesh and Clarence Jackson as they teamed up with other local users to address sustainability of the herring resource through management/conservation strategies at the annual herring dinner. The STA Herring Committee is open to the public and interested people should attend. STA is compiling and utilizing personal experiences, TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) and cutting edge biological science to support the three proposals submitted for review and consideration by the Board of Fisheries held here in Sitka February 17-26.

Herring are important to all species of marine mammals as well as salmon, halibut and ling-cod to name a few. In addition, herring eggs have always been a delicacy amongst Sitka Tribe and neighboring villages. The STA has become increasingly aware of issues facing subsistence users and seeks to work with the ADF&G through the BOF proposals.

Please contact Resource Protection Director for more information on Herring Committee meetings, schedules and agendas by calling 747-3207.

### Herring

Thank you to the following people that attended the Herring Committee meetings in 2008 and everybody that supported STA Herring Proposals at the BOF hearings Feb 17-26. Senator Kookesh and Clarence Jackson

Council: Woody Widmark, Mike Baines, George Paul (former council), Mike Miller, Tom Gamble

Staff: Heather Woody, Roy Levine, Alicia Gassman, Jess Perkins, Gia Hannah, Polly Bass, Rich Didrickson, Breck Titus, Phil Nielsen, David Pratt, Roby Littlefield, Michelle Mahoney

Citizens: John Littlefield, Herman Kitka, Nels Lawson, Harvey Kitka, Duck Didrickson, Al Wilson, John Duncan Sr/Jr, Robert Nielsen, Helen Dangel-Lorrigan, Jack Lorrigan, Dan Moreno, Irene Paul, Grace Larsen

### Summary of Activities

Tribal Council Meetings: 1/7/09; 1/21/09; 2/4/09; 2/18/09

Herring Committee Meetings: 1/8/09; 1/16/09; 2/2/09; Adhoc meeting 2/5/09; and, BOF practice 2/12/09

Annual Meeting: 1/30/2009—Thank you to all Resources Protection Staff for the Traditional Foods meal provided to the public.

Raven Radio Interview supporting STA Proposals for BOF: 2/11/09 @ 8:00 a.m.

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day & Annual Herring Dinner: 2/16/09 at Sheetka Kwaan Naa Kahidi

**Congratulations Gil Truitt  
STA 2008 Citizen of the Year!**

# Tribal Council Meeting Summaries: February 2009

## February 4, 2009

Harriet Beleal addressed the Council under persons to be heard.

Motions were made and passed to: Accept the 2008 Final Herring Season Report; Accept the Herring Liaison and Representative Recommendations. Amendments were made: to add names of representatives to Pre-Season herring meeting and to remove last sentence in paragraph 1. The amendments carried by motion.

Motions were made and passed to: adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-13 Support for Board of Fisheries Proposal 203” to change the harvest level and harvest rate for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery; and, to adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-14 In Support of Board of Fisheries Proposal 200 - Establish minimum threshold levels for the herring stock in Salisbury Sound and Opposition to Board of Fish proposal 217 to Amend regulation to include Area 13-A with 13-B (Sitka Sound) in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.

Tabled: Tribal Resolution 2009-15 Support for Board of Fish Proposal 199 To close commercial herring fisheries in Areas 1A through 16, except for subsistence and personal use.

Motions were made and passed to: adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-16 Support for Board of Fisheries proposal 204 to include herring taken in test fishery in the guideline harvest level in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe fishery; adopt Resolution 2009-17 Support of the herring committee’s recommendation to oppose Proposal 235 to expand permit and reporting requirements for all harvest of herring spawn in Sitka Sound; and, to adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-18 Support for Board of Fisheries proposal 234 to increase the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for herring eggs set in state regulation to 265,000-325,000 pounds.

Tribal enrollment was approved by motion to adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-19.

Tom Gamble provided a brief update on the Learn and Serve grant funded youth program, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and Eagle River. Mr. Gamble also suggested consideration that Roxanne Houston, STA’s Education Director, be appointed as a Liaison to the Sitka School Board.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

## February 18, 2009

Government to Government presentations were made by:

- City of Sitka Liaison
- US Forest Service staff
- National Park Service Superintendent
- SEARHC Staff

The meeting agenda was approved by motion.

Meeting minutes from the January 21, 2009 and February 2, 2009 meetings were both accepted by motion.

Motions were made and passed to: adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-20 Authorization and Support for Applying to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a Native American Basic Services Grant; adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-21 Submittal of Priority Transportation Routes to the Indian River Road Inventory; to adopt the Amended Long-Range Transportation Plan; to Approve the MOA Amendment 2 with USFS for Indian Reservation Roads; to adopt the Federal Priorities; and, to accept the State Priorities.

Motions were made and adopted to: approve Legislative Committee Composition; to adopt Sitka Indian Village Sign; to adopt Tribal Resolution 2009-22 In Support of Preserving Existing Clan Houses; approval of the Village Committee composition; and, approval of request for donation/amended to add donation in the amount of \$500.

Motions were made and passed to adopt enrollment resolutions 2009-23 through 2009-27 (in consecutive order).

Motions were made and passed to: support Community Ride’s project funding from the Sitka Marine Transportation Fee Fund; and to accept STA Committee, Commission and staff reports as written.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

### Upcoming Tribal Council Meetings

- 12 p.m. - April 1, 2009 @ STA’s Administration Building located @ 456 Katlian Street
- 6:30 p.m. - April 22, 2009 @ the Sheet’ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Community House located @ 200 Katlian Street