



The Cultural Significance and Management of the *Xwullemy*¹ (Salish Sea) Cultural Significance of the Salish Sea

- I. The Salish Sea, known in the Lummi language as *Xwullemy* has been the home of the Lummi and other tribes since time immemorial. It defines the identity of the Lummi Nation and sustains our existence. It is intimately associated with virtually all the events and patterns of events in history that have defined the Lummi Nation as a culture.
- II. The 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott, which like other treaties executed by tribal governments and the United States government, constitutes the supreme law of the land, guarantees to the people of the Lummi Nation the right to fish in their usual and accustomed places, which comprise the fresh and salt waters of the Salish Sea.
- III. The Lummi Nation holds that the Salish Sea is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), for listing as a National Historic Landmark, and for inclusion in the World Heritage List, for its association with the culture, traditions, and history of the Lummi people.
- IV. The fish, shellfish, marine mammals, avian life, plant life, water quality and air quality of the Salish Sea all are elements that contribute to its cultural significance, as do the traditions and traditional lifeways of the Lummi people.

Management of the Salish Sea and its Contributing Elements

- I. In their compliance with federal and state laws the Lummi Nation expects agencies of the federal, state, and local governments to consult in good faith (i.e., adhere to the principles of full, prior, and informed consent) with the Lummi Nation to avoid adverse effects on the tangible and intangible cultural properties of the Salish Sea, and to adopt such measures as are agreed upon to restore culturally significant aspects of the Salish Sea that have deteriorated or been adversely affected by human activities over the years. Until such time as there is meaningful consultation with the Lummi Nation and it formally agrees with the proposed measures, our position should be construed as opposed to the proposed activity. Any action contrary to this position would be in violation of our treaty, the Supreme Law of the Land.
- II. The Lummi Nation expects that such consultation will be carried out with full respect for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- III. While the Lummi Nation does and will cooperate with other tribes and governments to ensure the proper management of the Salish Sea and its contributing elements, no one but the Lummi Nation is authorized to speak for the Lummi Nation without the Lummi Nation's explicit agreement. We expect all agencies to adhere to the protocols of government-to-government relations.

¹ *Xwullemy* is the language term that historically referred to the glaciers that existed in our area and now refers to the glacial peaks and the waters left behind by the receded glaciers to become the sea and fresh water and includes other bioregion properties. Thus, *Xwlem'ich'oSen* as a language-based term(s) for many if not all aspects of our bioregion. The *Xwullemy* or Salish Sea can be viewed as having both the practical side of our *Lhaqtemish* people but also have our spiritual and religious significance as yet the another side.