



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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## USET SPF Resolution No. 2017 SPF:015

### **REQUESTING THAT THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONSULT WITH TRIBAL NATIONS AND IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES PROTOCOLS ON SUBMERGED SITE INVESTIGATIONS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2012, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) funded research through the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography (BOEM/URI), to address National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) responsibilities in ground disturbing activities on the Atlantic continental shelf; and
- WHEREAS,** the BOEM/URI research project focused on identifying the presence of submerged paleo-cultural landscapes within the sediments of the Atlantic continental shelf, and developing "best practices" protocols for fulfilling NHPA responsibilities to preserve ancient Tribal cultural sites on the Atlantic continental shelf; and
- WHEREAS,** the BOEM /URI project "best practices" protocols have not been tested on any paleo-cultural landscapes submerged within the sediments of the continental shelf; and
- WHEREAS,** a site documented in 1974 by a scallop boat named "Cinmar" is of interest to the BOEM/URI research project and would be an excellent opportunity to evaluate "best practices" protocols; and
- WHEREAS,** the "Cinmar" site is representative of many cultural sites suspected to be submerged on the continental shelf, and lies 47 miles out in the Atlantic Ocean east of the Delmarva Peninsula, and its presence may verify indigenous ancestors on the Atlantic continental shelf at least 22,000 years ago, during the age of mastodons; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has a trust responsibility to consult with Tribal Nations with respect to the ancient Tribal cultural sites submerged on the Atlantic continental shelf; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management must engage Tribal Nations in research and investigations on sites of cultural and religious significance pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),

whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution;  
therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** USET SPF urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to consult with USET SPF member Tribal Nations in all current and future research and investigations of submerged ancient Tribal cultural sites on the Atlantic continental shelf pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and other trust responsibilities, and be it further

**RESOLVED** USET SPF supports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's pursuit of research and investigation of submerged ancient Tribal cultural sites with the development of "best practices" protocols in collaboration with the USET SPF member Tribal Nations and the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography; and be it finally

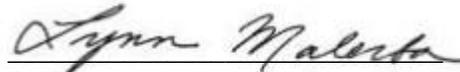
**RESOLVED** USET SPF urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to requisition a research model based on the "Cinmar" site that would implement and evaluate the "best practices" protocols of suspected submerged cultural sites on the Atlantic continental shelf.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 9, 2017.



Chief Kirk Francis, Sr., President  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund