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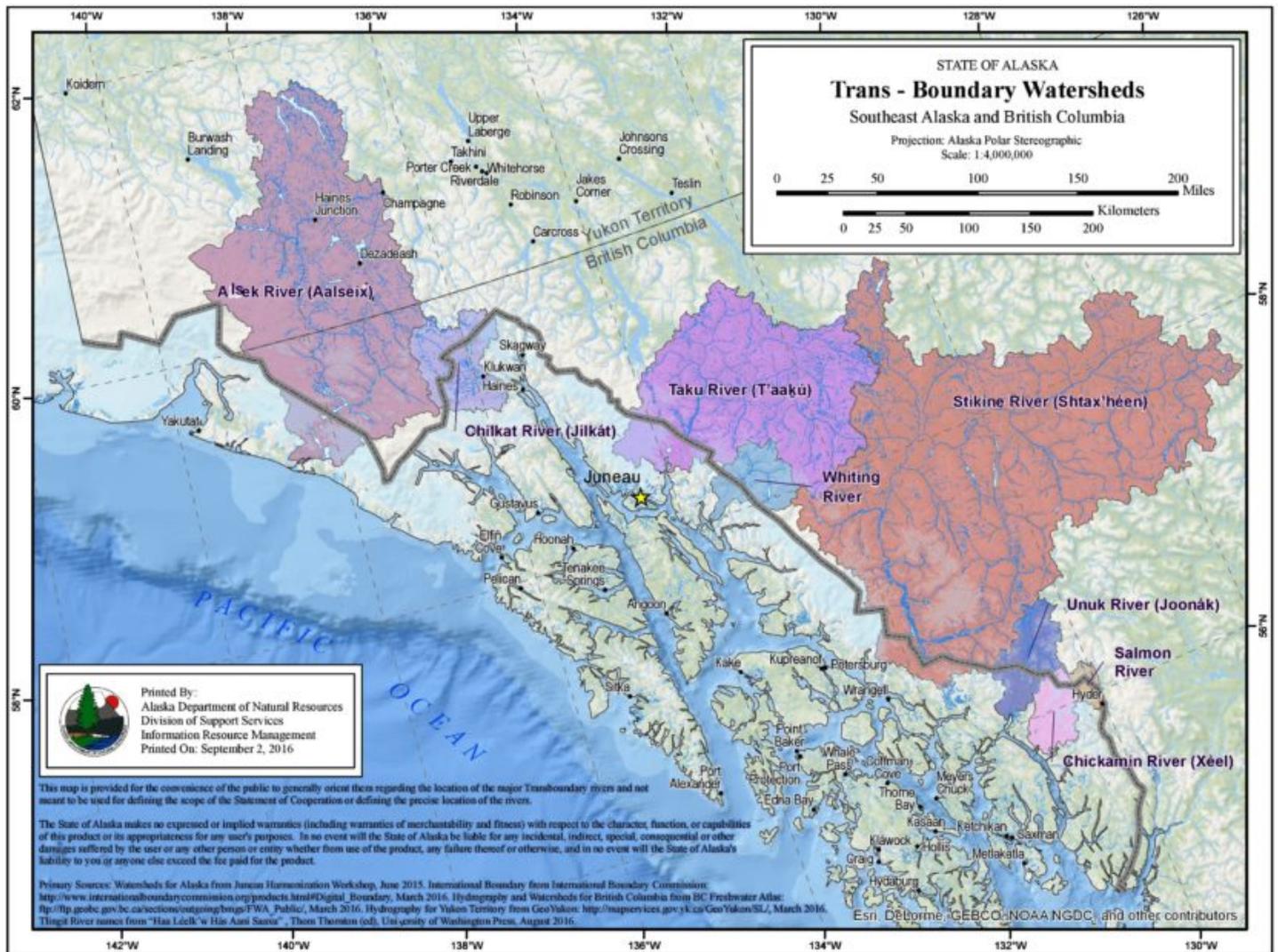
360 North

alliance

By Ed Schoenfeld, CoastAlaska News | March 15, 2018



Alaska Native Government & Policy , Economy , Energy & Mining , Environment , Fisheries , Southeast , Syndicated



The state has identified eight transboundary watersheds feeding Southeast Alaska rivers. Tribal governments and groups from Southeast and British Columbia met March 12-13 to talk strategy in their fight against B.C. mines in those watersheds. (Map by Alaska Department of Natural Resources.)

Southeast tribal leaders are gaining new allies in their battle against British Columbia mining projects.

[Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission](#) Chairman Frederick Julius

Olsen Jr. said the gathering strengthened an informal alliance.

“The purpose of the meeting was to continue the unification of the indigenous voices around the issue of the so-called transboundary mines and also any transboundary industrial activities,” said Olsen, who is also tribal president of the Organized Village of Kasaan.

The more than 30 representatives met Monday and Tuesday at the Tulalip Indian Reservation, between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia.

The alliance released this proclamation at the end of the meeting:



Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission
about a month ago

March 13, 2018
Tulalip Indian Reservation (Washington State)

Indigenous leaders met to discuss mutual interests concerning adverse impacts and potential harms of extractive industries incompatible with sustainable development in rivers/watersheds in Alaska, Canada, and transboundary ecosystems.... [See More](#)

25 **Comment** 36

Olsen said they shared concerns about damage to traditional waterways and lands. He said they also talked about state, provincial and national environmental programs they say don't work.

“We call on the federal governments to do their jobs. To listen to us and work with us. And you know what, if they can't do it or won't do it, as one of our members said, ‘Give us a shovel. Let us do it,’” he said.

damage fish and other resources.



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U.S. State Department officials are in Southeast Alaska this week to talk about transboundary