

# Promoting and Supporting NW Tribal Food Sovereignty Through Policy

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## BACKGROUND

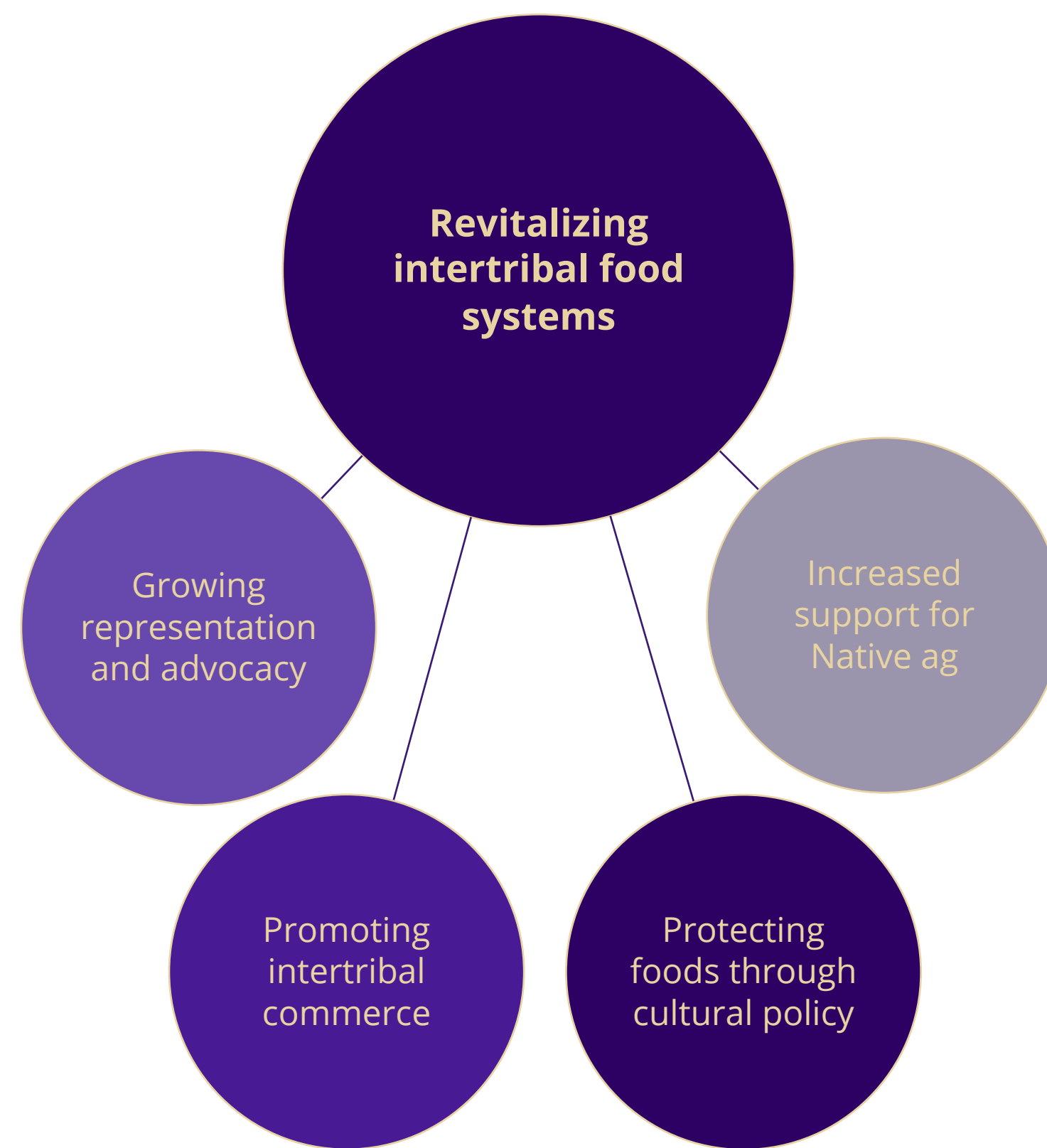
### NW TRIBAL LEADERS WORK TO PROMOTE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: POLICIES CAN SUPPORT THIS EFFORT

The Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (NWTEC) aims to promote health in tribal communities. One project—Wellness for Every American Indian to Achieve and View Health Equity (WEAVE-NW)—fostered the development of the Northwest Tribal Food Sovereignty Coalition (NTFSC), which coordinates food sovereignty knowledge and actions across NW tribal communities. The NTFSC's Policy workgroup identified the need for a policy platform centering on revitalizing intertribal food systems. The Model Tribal Food and Agriculture Code Index is a valuable tool for policy development in tribal settings.

### Project Goal

Tailoring model code examples to NTFSC Policy workgroup priorities for the development of a new policy platform

## NTFSC Policy Workgroup Priorities



## METHODS

### Model Tribal Food and Agriculture Code review

- Codes reviewed according to policy priorities
- Review organized by 3 categories: food production, food procurement, food safety

### Facilitated Dialogue:

- Questions regarding food sovereignty definitions, visions, efforts, challenges, and policy potential
- Notes summarized into main points
- Emergent themes determined from main points

### Model code Selection:

- Emergent themes informed code selection from reviewed chapters

## FINDINGS

### Model code chapters reviewed:

- Traditional Foods
- Health and Nutrition
- Land Use
- Agriculture and Food Safety
- Plant Production, Health, and Sale of Produce
- Aquaculture (Fisheries)
- Trade and Marketing of Agricultural Products
- Liability for Agricultural Production and Related Enterprises
- Water

### Key dialogue themes:

- Resource access, food procurement, natural resource preservation

### Model code topics aligned with key themes:

- Land, water, fishing, trade, and traditional foods

### Code Topics by Theme



#### Resource Access

- > Using vacant public land for gardening
- > Outlining treaty fishing rights & jurisdiction
- > Acknowledging water rights



#### Food Procurement

- > Protecting species from GMO adulteration
- > Designating land for food procurement
- > Establishing tribal trade agreements



#### Natural Resource Preservation

- > Protecting cultural and historical sites
- > Preserving forests
- > Protecting wetlands and streams

*"It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation, or other entity to: Propagate, cultivate, raise, grow, spawn, incubate, or release genetically engineered or genetically modified organisms within the territory or jurisdiction of the Tribe, or to knowingly or negligently allow such activities to occur within such territory and jurisdiction..."*

-- Chapter 2: Traditional Foods (Yurok Tribal Code); Model Tribal Food and Agriculture Code

## CONCLUSIONS

- Policies can promote food sovereignty and protect tribes from extra-jurisdictional overreach
- Selected codes may support Policy workgroup priorities and food sovereignty goals
- Code selection isn't exhaustive and may not meet needs across communities
- Policy workgroup members may adopt/adapt code language for policy development

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