

My name is Justine Gunderson, from Nelson Lagoon.

I have seen the declines in returns to Nelson Lagoon - both when our stocks were healthy and when they were weak – as they are now. For the sake of our community the Board must help us fashion a solution to a more historic sharing of this sockeye resource.

I no longer actively fish – but I live in this community and have seen first-hand the economic impacts to our community of the imbalance of harvest and conservation that has resulted as the unintended consequence of previous Board action. People in my community have seen their incomes slashed by this double disaster.

Ours is a tiny and isolated coastal community located in the North Peninsula District. Other larger communities in the Aleutian Pass and the South Alaska Peninsula have access to fishing opportunities outside of salmon: - In halibut, groundfish and crab. Their winter oceans are free of ice and their processing facilities are open markets where they can sell their product. In Nelson Lagoon there are no markets or processing open outside of the salmon season. Salmon is all we have.

While there are a number of proposals that might move Nelson Lagoon sockeye back to the Lagoon – I would ask the Board during their committee process to help find a balanced solution to move more of our sockeye back to Nelson Lagoon, but in a tempered way that reduces impact on intercepting fisheries.