

My name is Chase Oleyer. I am a shareholder in the Aleut Corporation, the Ounalashka Corporation and a member of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska. I grew up subsistence living which has been a way of life in the Aleutians for thousands of years. I'd like to represent the 20,000 Aleuts who were murdered, perhaps for standing against the destruction of the sea mammal population. The Aleutians fed a population of that size with a fisheries management lifestyle that created, not just a sustainable fishery or economic base, but a *sustainable abundance!*

Life has changed. Unalaska has changed. There are no longer any salmon in Morris Cove. They don't return to Summers Bay at all. They are nearly gone from Broad Bay and Nanteeken. The town creek used to have so many fish in the summer that we could cross without getting our feet wet. That fed the whole village; that was our staple but now it's not. Agnes Beach doesn't have those mountains of king crab anymore, they're completely gone. There are no longer herring like we used to have. We spend hours fishing old halibut holes without catching a thing. I haven't had fresh halibut in years. What we can catch in those most favorable months for fishing is now a dangerous game of Frogger.

When we see these mountainous ships come, of course we step aside. Wouldn't you? There might not be a record of one of us getting run over by a big boat, I don't know. BUT... is that what it is going to take for you to say, "Maybe it was a mistake to let them come so close to town? Must those of us who have depended on the bounty of our bays for generations again just step aside?"

I'm not saying that trawlers have depleted the halibut fishery but their by-catch contributes to an ecological imbalance. Why do we have to prove the destruction after it happens rather than prevent it in the first place? The disappearance of our fish may be contributed to a hundred factors and this is just one mistake we can remedy today. We have to start correcting our mistakes and replenish our oceans. Personally, I believe we must protect ALL of our shores from any further decline in our wildlife. For now, I ask you to just PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL TO CLOSE the small section of water near our homes to trawlers. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this issue with you.