

Ashton Mallory

RC 105

ADFG Board meeting.

Mr. Chairman and members of the board, Thank you

Hi. My name is Ashton Mallory. I'm an 18 year old senior from Dimond high, here in anchorage, and I'm a 4th generation setnetter.

Some of my best memories occurred at our fish site in Clam Gulch, Alaska. Whether it was playing "pirates" with my cousins, or jumping in the cold Cook Inlet. I'm proud to say that the time I have spent as a setnetter has taught me the value of many things, like hard work, being part of a team, the importance of family, and that it's okay to take time away from city life.

I know you have been bombarded with facts and studies all day. I'm not going to do that.

I want you, the board members, to think about the families here today, and the families that can't be here. The over 500 families that depend on this as not only an income source, but as a place to raise kids and give them good memories. The thousands of people that are employed every summer, most of those college and high school students. The families that have grown and depended on this fishery every year for decades, directly or indirectly.

I'm asking you to look at me. I'm an 18 year old with no prior job experience. Most places won't give me a chance for a job. But this fish site, if I work this summer, will provide me with the money I need to make it to college next year.

These family businesses have supported so many generations of kids, that have grown to do many other things. Military members, teachers, mechanics, many small business owners, and many other professions make differences in every aspect of Alaskan life. But there's one thing that all setnetters do.

We all provide fresh, natural Alaskan salmon for the world to eat, and should be proud of that. Every Alaskan should be proud of that, not just setnetters. And every Alaskan should do what they can to preserve this lifestyle.

Including you, the board.

Thank you