

Good (morning, afternoon) Mr. Chairman, members of the board, staff. Welcome to Naknek. We appreciate you coming down.

My name is Mariano Floresta. I am here representing the Clarks Point Village Council. Our community relies heavily on salmon for our primary income base.

We support proposal 12. We would like to see the Togiak Herring sac roe fishery more equitable for participants. In the past, I have gone over to Togiak to Herring fish and as the boats got bigger, our company reduced the number of vessels to fish, eliminating a lot of the gillnet fleet. If we are given more fish to catch, maybe our company will add us to the herring fishing fleet. Changes in markets have reduced opportunities for watershed residents to participate in a fishery literally in our own back yard. Increasing the gillnet quota would broaden participation in the fishery and benefit watershed residents and their communities.

We oppose proposal 32. We feel strongly against any extension of the 32 foot Bristol Bay limit. We think that the current size of the 32 footer is large enough as it is and if larger vessels are introduced, the fishermen that have smaller vessels are having tough enough times just to make ends meet. We will have less fish to catch because the larger vessels will be catching the majority of the fish.

We oppose Proposal 36. I do not think that a drift permit holder should own and operate two permits. When permit stacking was initiated, it's original intent was to help out those fishermen who had boat trouble or didn't have one to fish. It's bad enough as it is right now fishing against 2 permit holders on one vessel with 200 fathoms. The boats with a single permit has a tough time competing against the dual permit, especially in shallow water.

We are in favor of Proposal 80. The issue is the Wood River Special Harvest Area. This would modify the management plan to allow separate openings between drift fishermen and setnet fishermen. Everyone knows that the fish mostly run right along the river banks. This would address and reduce gear conflict between gear types.

I have fished both set and drift permits in the Wood River. If this proposal were adopted, it would benefit both drifters and setnetters. With both gear types fishing, separate openings will help because there is too much gear in the water with both fishing together.