Public Testimony for Board of Fisheries

RC 040

February 24, 2015

Sitka, Alaska

My name is Harriet Miyasato Beleal, I'm secretary of Ak. Native Brotherhood, Camp #1, Sitka, Alaska but my testimony is my own.

For ten thousand years, our native peoples have survived on subsistence and living off the land, sea and sky. Growing up, I was privileged to have lived a subsistence lifestyle in Klawock and Wrangell, where I'm from. My grandfathers, Chester Worthington and James Johnson are founding fathers of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. Ten thousand years, God has provided us and blessed us with food from land, sea and sky. I can recall that the fish were plentiful and we wanted for nothing. This was back in the 1940's. We lived a very independent lifestyle and depended on no one. There was no welfare, Unemployment or social ills we suffer today.

As secretary of ANB we support our subsistence lifestyle, embrace our cultural Values, and defend our subsistence rights as the first peoples of Alaska.

For the next ten thousand years, may there be native foods for our future Generations, wheather they be of any race.

Let's PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR SUBSISTANCE AND TRADITIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS. OUR LEGACY SO THERE IS SOMETHING TO DEFEND AND PROTECT. Protect our herring ~~quota~~ ANB + herring quota.

IT IS IN YOUR HANDS AND WHAT YOU DECIDE TODAY AND LATER WILL DETERMINE AND AFFECT MANY LIVES. SO, DO THE RIGHT THING AND YOU WILL SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHT.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE MY OPINION AND FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS.

SINCERELY,

Harriet Miyasato Beleal
738-3470