

My name is Ray Johnson; I live and fish a set net site in Nelson Lagoon. My set net harvests are my main source of annual income.

In all of the years that I have lived and fished in Nelson Lagoon; I have seen many years where I and my neighbors could make a decent living. Those days are gone, we can't do that anymore. When our stocks are healthy – too many of them are caught outside of the lagoon, and when our stocks are weak, as they are now, we pay the full price of conservation.

We have been before this Board many times trying to get the Board to understand the impacts of the catch along the North Peninsula; asking for relief. Out of frustration, we have submitted proposals to significantly restrict outside fishing over and over again. Until the WASSIP study we only could point to the large harvests and assume they all were intercepting our Nelson Lagoon stocks. Now we have a better understanding that the North and South Innik, and Three-Hills sections were the main interceptors of our fish.

The proposals we submitted a last April to the Board, were submitted before the WASSIP study became available this past fall. Those proposals voiced our concern for returning management to a more historic sharing of conservation and harvest.

Today I am here asking for your help in modifying our proposals of time, area or gear modifications to reflect WASSIP interceptions and bring back a balanced sharing.