

Testimony of Earl Krygier 2/27/12

– Board of Fisheries - North Alaska Peninsula Sockeye salmon

My name is Earl Krygier – I am here today with Herman Savikko representing the fishermen from Nelson Lagoon – a small remote and isolated native community on the North Alaskan Peninsula. A fishing community with neither markets nor processing options outside of the summer salmon fishing season; a situation that offers no fishing opportunities for groundfish, crab or halibut even when they are not locked in by winter Bering Sea ice.

We have submitted RC 60 and RC 61 which detail the unintended consequences from the Board's actions in 2004 and 2007 that increased time and area opportunities to harvests in the North Peninsula; an action that has generally resulted in a shift in effort and a shift in harvest. The unintended consequence is that approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the harvest of Nelson Lagoon stocks now occurs in the Northern Sections of the Peninsula. This may not seem like a large amount to the fisheries out there, but when the stocks are depressed this is a significant amount. It is also a significant amount when stocks are healthy and this is your only source of livelihood. (See RC 61 – Community Profile) Nelson Lagoon fishermen believe that their share of the harvest has declined and that the burden of conservation is falling mostly to them. We would hope to work in the committee process seeking relatively minor adjustments to reinstate a balanced sharing of the resource between Nelson Lagoon and the North Peninsula drifters.

We suggest a
corridor from 1.5-3 mi from N. I think
- three Hill sections, with a one day rolling
closure that close & then re open once/week.