

February 23, 2016  
Record Comment by Adrienne Christensen

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, board of directors, my name is Adrienne Christensen. I am from Port Heiden and have been commercial fishing in Bristol Bay since I was 4 years old. I work for the Native Village of Port Heiden. I am here in support of proposals 22, 23, 24 and 155.

The economy of Port Heiden and the fishery are suffering without the local fishery. The fishermen have to spend more money to get to their fishing area. The fish that are caught outside of Port Heiden contribute nothing to the local economy. Port Heiden is working to create a fishery, which would diversify and improve the local economy.

The Tribe has created a market for fishermen and is completing a salmon processing plant in Port Heiden. We are prepared to buy salmon this season and will be able to have a season lasting as long as the salmon are running and fishermen want to fish.

Our fishermen are all area T permit holders and currently have to go 50 miles north to Ugashik to fish. This means a large percentage of our community is gone. During medical emergencies, when bears come into the village and harass our elders and moms home with the kids, and when family members are sick or dying we have to do all of this without the people who are the backbone of our community.

I would like to address the ADF&G's opposition of proposals 22 and 23. They are citing cost as the reason for opposition. We would like to respectfully request clarification of the cost difference, as we do not see where the change in management would create a cost increase.

The return of the Port Heiden fishery to area T would also relieve some of the congestion and havoc of the Ugashik district. The Native Village of Port Heiden is prepared to buy fish for as long as the fish are running. There would be a steady, stable and reliable flow of fish rather than a big rush all at once.

Enforcement and data of the area is limited due to the State's current

the budget. There is little to no enforcement of boundaries, and fishing openings.

Our subsistence practice is affected by the lack of enforcement. We are unable to catch the fish we need to feed our families through the winter.

We are also not able to teach our children fishing because the fleet is so far away and we are unable to subsistence fish during the peak season.

In support of proposal 155, we would like to see the area closed until CFEC approves and implements the change

The tribe and city of Port Heiden are prepared to assist in the transition and the management of the fishery. This is our home. We will ensure that our fleet is responsible not only for the fish but also for the environment and to each other.

We feel that returning the Port Heiden fishery to Area T will improve safety by relieving congestion in the other northern districts, create an opportunity for more income for the fishermen with a local market that will buy fish for longer, improve the local economy by having the fishery located where the fishermen live, keep our husbands and wives happier because we are closer to home, assist the state with enforcement and management with a local fleet and community support.

Do you have any questions?

Thank you for your time and consideration of our proposals.