

## Alaska Board of Fisheries

## Public Comments

Submitted by Gerda Kosbruk:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board:

My name is Gerda Kosbruk. I am from Port Heiden, a place I have call home my entire life. I am a subsistence since I was a child, learning and helping our family survive off the land as my ancestor had done for hundreds of years. My great grandfather was the chief of Illnik. My father was born and raised in Ilnik and his mother was born at Bear River. My mother and her mother was both born in Port Heiden.

I started commercial fishing as young teenager, fishing in Port Heiden and Pilot Point. Currently, we commercial fish the Ugashik district at Pilot Point.

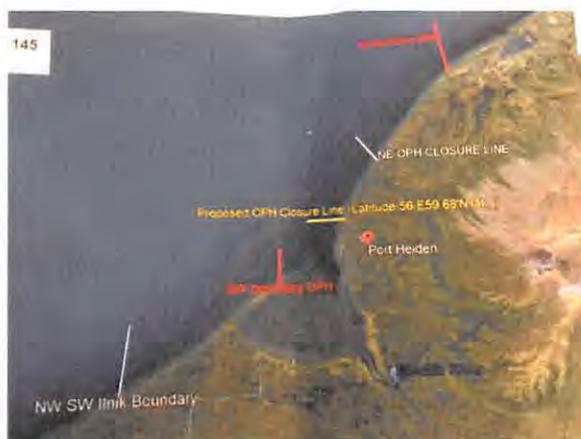
The land, the fish, the animals are the essence of who we are as a people. When the fish fail to return, it affects us not only physically but spiritually as well. I have seen this happen with my own eyes and have felt it in my heart and soul. We want this spirituality to be passed down to our children and grandchildren. I have attached pictures to this testimony and that I took of our children cutting fish. Our children are happy when they do fish and we are happy to teach them what been taught to us by our parent and grandparents.



I support Proposal 135 that provides windows for fish to move through the fishery. This proposal may allow Bristol Bay fish to escape but also salmon stocks heading to Chignik, AYK, and Cook Inlet. The current regulations allow gear to be in the water from June 7 through June 29 continually. I believe that this is too much fishing time and we need the windows of no fishing to let fish pass.

I support Proposal 144. This proposal makes sense. If fishermen benefit from a stock when it is strong, they should be willing to conserve the fish when runs come back low. This proposal provides for a conservation sharing approach when Bristol Bay salmon runs are low. The proposed restricted area in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections are designed to have the fleet fish on local stocks. I support the boundary line be placed on the latitude line, or a line perpendicular to the shore, not the line on the longitude.

I support Proposal 145. This proposal attempts to direct the fleet on more local stocks. This would make the management plan more applicable. I know and seen where this fleet fishes. They fish on the Northern Boundary.



Picture taken at the yellow line. There is a road that goes to Reindeer Creek



We were wondering, the management plan for this fishery was allow to manage Meshik River escapement and yet these boat all hug the Northern Boundary where the WASSIP study showed there is less 10% Meshik stock. This is one reason why they don't have many local fish from the Meshik River in their harvest and was one of the reasons this fishery was allowed.

Thank you.