My name is Nelly Hand, I’m a second generation commercial fisherman, born and raised in a commercial fishing family in Prince William Sound. I am a gillnet permit holder and stakeholder in this fishery. I own and operate a gillnet boat in the Copper River and Prince William Sound district.

I strongly oppose Proposal 5. ADFG has the tools in place to effectively manage the Copper River King salmon fishery. Creating an OEG will not benefit or protect the sustainability of the King Salmon, ADFG needs to continue utilizing the tools in place to properly manage this fishery.

I support Proposal 6 and emphasize the importance of all user groups participating in daily harvest reports of salmon harvest. Sport fisheries making daily harvest reports provides information that will be incredibly beneficial to ADFG and can be used as a tool for future management decisions.

I support Proposal 7. This proposal should pass because subsistence fisheries were not created to be commercially guided or capitalized. This proposal would clarify the language to the rules original intent.

I support Proposal 8 because it will contribute to the long term health of Sockeye and King salmon spawning grounds and sustainability of our wild fishery.

I strongly support Proposals 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 for the health of the upper Copper River spawning grounds and safety of the fishers. Regulating dip netting to shore based gives salmon more of an opportunity to make it to the sensitive spawning grounds while still allowing access to the resource for dip netters.

I oppose Proposal 18 and advocate for the board to not expand the Chitna Subdistrict boundary line. This boundary is in place for a reason and is necessary for the sustainability of the King and Sockeye salmon.

I support Proposal 19 and stand in solidarity with CDFU advocating for a shared burden of conservation between all fishers of Copper River salmon, commercial and subsistence. Together we should share the stewardship of this resource and ADFG should put measures in place to manage harvest opportunities reflecting shared reduction in years of low abundance.

I support Proposal 38 and emphasize the importance of shared conservation of Copper
River Coho salmon across user groups.