

Dear Board of Fish Members,

My name is Jennifer Myrick Pedersen. I am a 2nd generation Kodiak setnetter, raising a 3rd generation of setnetters. I was born and raised in Kodiak, and grew up fishing for salmon with my parents and twin sister. I am now raising 3 daughters in Kodiak and am advocating today in support of setnetters in the central section of the Northwest Kodiak District.

My identity, and that of my family is firmly rooted in setnetting. Seasonal travel for salmon fishing was a core part of both my husband's and my childhood. In the summers, he traveled to Chignik with his family, and I traveled to Uganik. Being able to travel and participate in salmon fishing as a family is who we are. Fishing builds a sense of work ethic, identity, and the ability to creatively problem solve. My 3 daughters are Alaska Native, and the 3rd generation of setnetters on my side of the family. They are following a legacy of salmon fishermen on their dad's side of the family. It's a great sense of pride to make a living from commercial salmon fishing. A loss of harvest would mean many things for our family. Further, travel to Uganik for setnetting makes my girls eligible for the migrant education program, providing books, materials, access to free lunch, and tutoring services. My oldest drives the skiff, is learning to mend nets, and is ready to be crew! My middle child is quick to learn and loves being in the skiff with her Auntie and me. And my youngest can already identify all the species of salmon. Protecting westside setnetting helps us protect a critical piece of our family's identity!

I urge you to consider the people who are Northwest Setnetters when making decisions that may impact our livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Myrick Pedersen