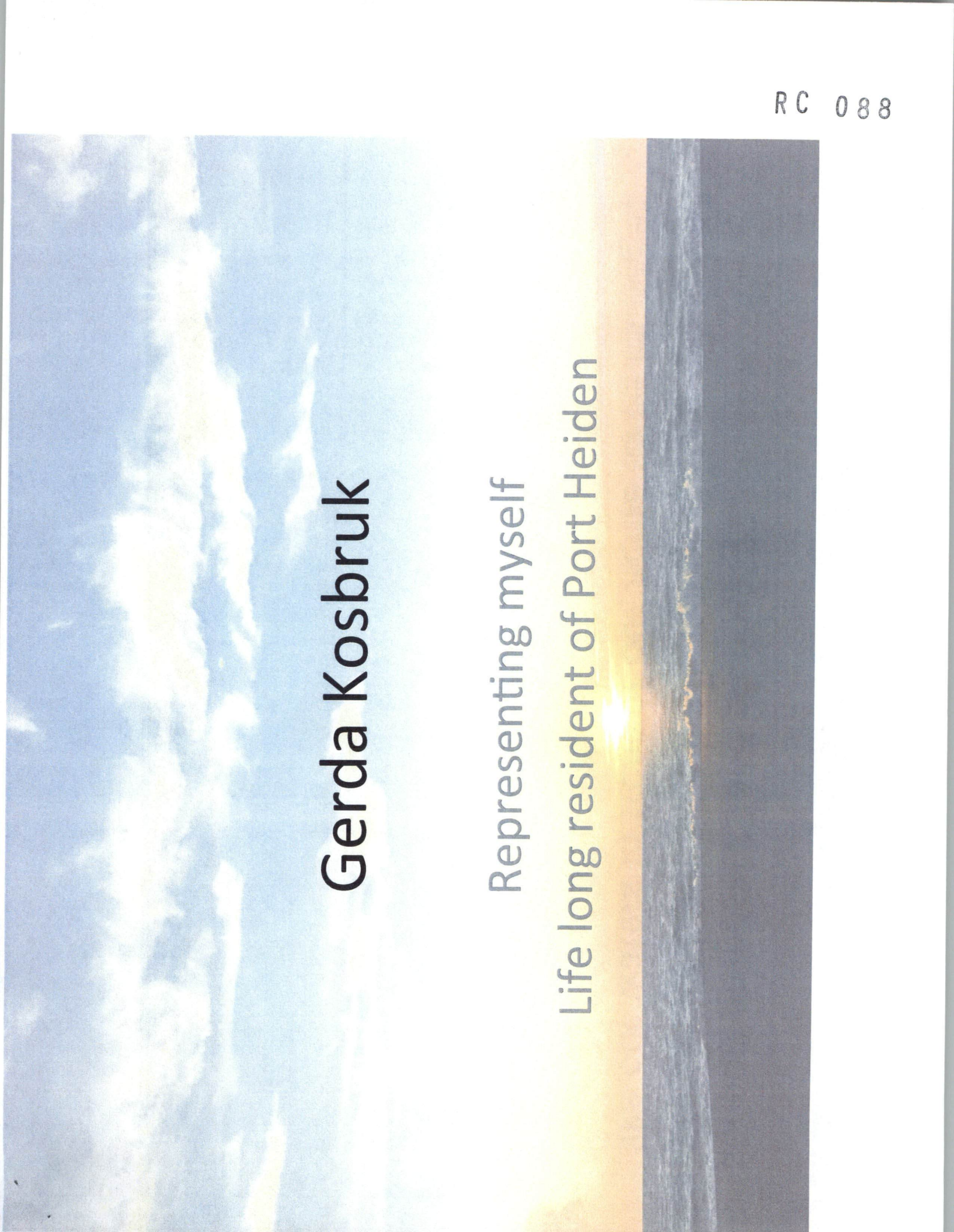




Gerda Kosbruk

Representing myself

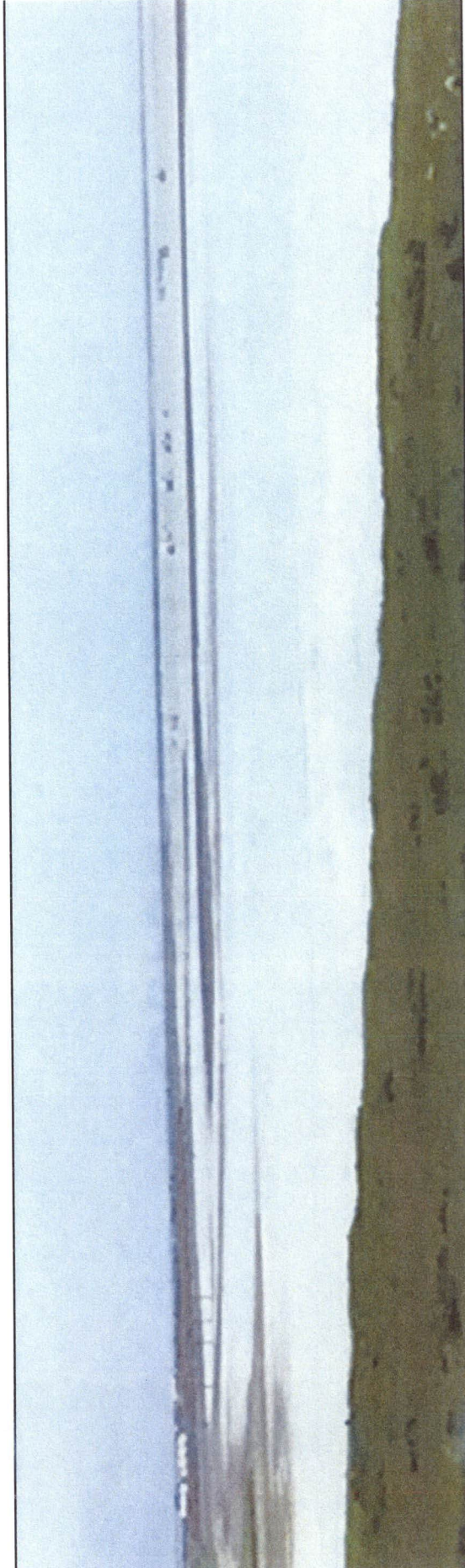
Life long resident of Port Heiden

RC 088

Proposal 22 & 23

I support proposal 23 and proposal 22.

- We always been Bristol Bay fishermen and we would like our waters in front of our home to be managed by area T management.



Proposal 22/23 cont.



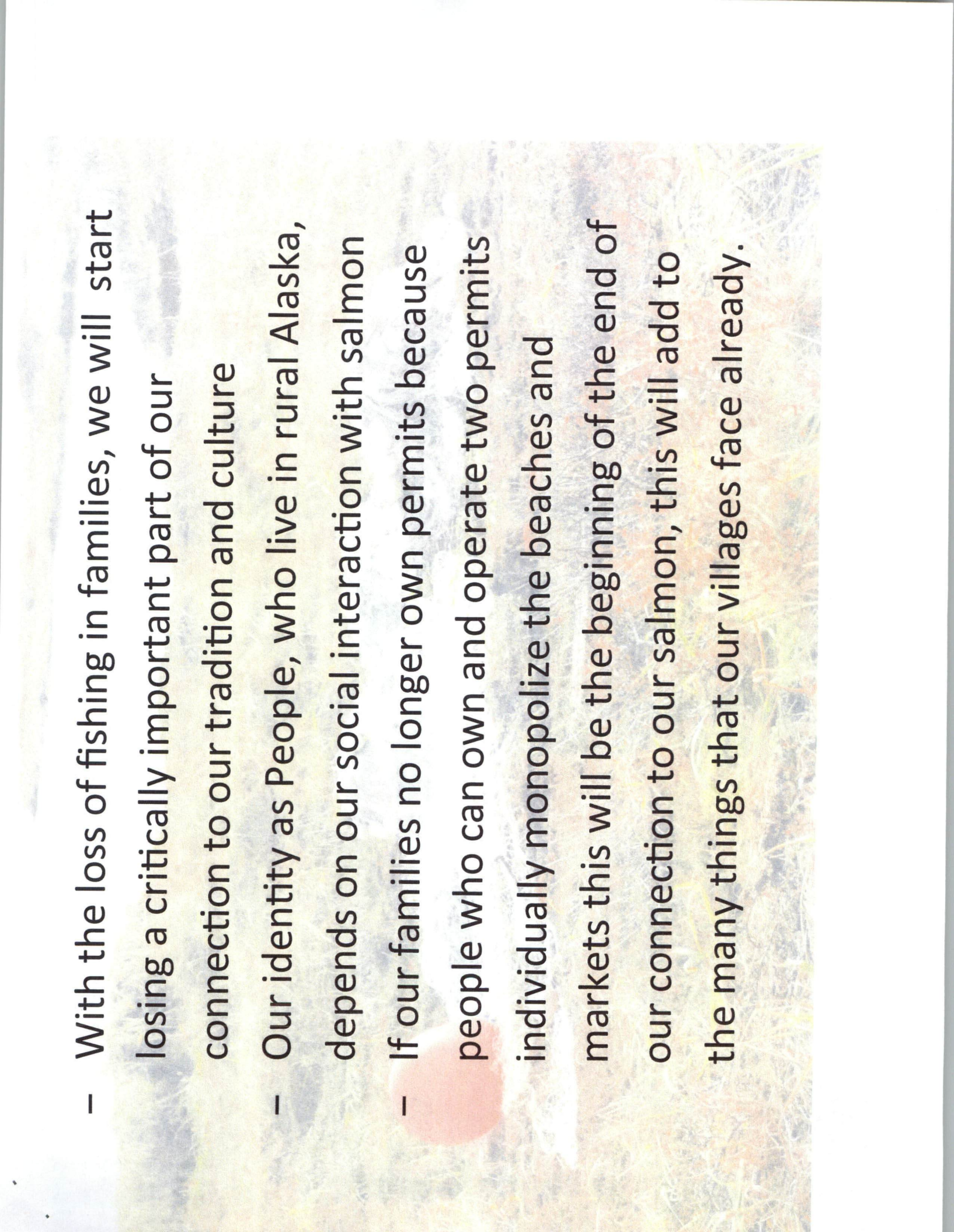
Tisha Christensen and her daughter
splitting fish for home use.

- The WASSIP study showed that Area M fishermen were catching mixed stock of salmon most of which are Bristol Bay bound. This **was not** the intent when Outer Port Heiden section was opened. It was opened to manage Meshik River.
- I would recommend closing the outer waters to both Area T & Area M permits and leave the Inner waters of Port Heiden open to both area's fishers.

Proposals 45 to 52 Permit Stacking

I don't support these proposals

- In my opinion most local watershed people will not be able afford two permits which leaves them at a disadvantage in the fishery
- I do support dual operation as it is allowed currently in the drift fishery, not as proposed with one person owning two permits.
- In Bristol Bay as in many areas of Alaska we are facing out migration of people in our communities. This might speed up that process.
- Our schools would be more threatened and because of the state budget cuts there is a move to up the minimum number of students to 25 from 10

- 
- With the loss of fishing in families, we will start losing a critically important part of our connection to our tradition and culture
 - Our identity as People, who live in rural Alaska, depends on our social interaction with salmon
 - If our families no longer own permits because people who can own and operate two permits individually monopolize the beaches and markets this will be the beginning of the end of our connection to our salmon, this will add to the many things that our villages face already.

Salmon is important to us all whether it is commercial fishing on a boat, on a beach, or for home use.

Important stories are told to our friends, family and children as a lots of hard work is done by all to complete a task together.



There are some of us that will not leave our villages. Rules and regulations will change again and again. We will win some and lose some. We will live with the issues that face our villages, we will fight to have simple rights granted to people in America, like education, safety, the right to use our land and sea and much more. We have watched our rights slowly be taken from us and given to people who are not of our lands. We once were a growing village with many permits. Our children were taught to fish for their income. As mothers, we sent our young sons and daughters out into one of the most dangerous jobs in Alaska. But our children used to know who were, and what they were doing. Things have changed, rules have changed.

As leaders of our people we are expected to look for an answer and it is hard to find. When people who do not know us, make changes that effect us it makes it difficult. Our children now are told that they should go to college to better themselves, they go and don't return because there are no jobs for them at home. We meet and gather and ask each other what to do, our villages are shrinking, some of our people have lost hope and are drinking and drugging, committing suicide. The Cost of living is very high in our village. Air travel only one way is at a cost of \$600. Freight is \$1.50 to \$3.50 per lb.

We will continue to ask for Outer Port Heiden to be closed and ask that you support any proposal that achieves that objective.

Outer Port Heiden, where Area M is intercepting in a mix stock fishery.

Thank You

For your time and dedication to this board process. It is appreciated.

