

My name is Amber Every and I am a mother of 4th generation set netters and that is why I am here today. I have lived in Kenai the majority of my life and have witnessed these fish wars for many years. I am here to say our community, the state and the next generation deserve better. Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishing has been around for 150 years. Upper Cook Inlet setnetters consists of 735 small businesses of which 81% are Alaskan residents. We actually aren't these terrible people we have been portrayed for years. We are community members who are mayors, doctors, lawyers, nurses, coaches and hardworking families who cherish the time on the beach with their families.

You board members have a choice to listen to the rhetoric by an organization who's main goal has always been to eliminate set netting in Cook Inlet. Or you can look at the data that many smart biologist sitting in this room have spent sometimes their entire careers putting together. I am asking each and everyone of you board members to rise above the fish wars and fish politics and carefully consider the biological data. Our next generation depends on you.

I have spent many hours looking at the data and have complied RC 53, 54, 55.

I will hit upon the top 2 proposals that would completely eliminate my business.

Proposal 88 would Substantially increase the sockeye in river goals. I think it is very important when talking about this proposal that we are clear this is only talking about allocation above River Mile 19. There is a in river sport fishery below the counter that is not included in this allocation. Currently the dip net fishery takes place at the mouth of the Kenai River and is also not included. The proposer is asking for an allocation of 250,000 up to 1.25 million sockeye ABOVE the counter. This request would most definitely put the commercial fishery on the beach which I believe is the main goal. The current in river goals allows an allocation of 200,000 to 800,000. The highest harvest to date above the counter is 379,685.

Proposal 104- Kenai River chinook salmon- Oh man where do I begin. A beautiful wild large fish that we must be responsible with. What has happened to the Early Run King Salmon on the Kenai? A sport guide fisherman told me yesterday that they are 100% the reason the Early Run is in the shape it is today. So can we learn a few things about that? We have one of the most powerful sport fisheries in the country taking place in our backyard, who can harvest a lot of king salmon in a short amount of time. Staff comments page 264 has a breakdown of the large king salmon harvest. From 1998-2013 In-river fishery harvested 74% large kings and ESSN harvested 26% contrary to what we heard yesterday in public testimony. In 2014 wide sweeping changes were made to the Late Run King salmon plans. In 2017 once again MAJOR changes were made with a large chinook goal. Can we give sometime to see these changes come to fruition before drastically changing them once again.