

Good Afternoon. Thank you to the Board for seriously considering my comments.

My name is Patricia MacDonald, my Naltsiin name is "She shen sge he". I am the daughter of Rose Ruth Woods of Healy Lake and Tanacross and Alfred John Woods, SR, "Gootsie" of Rampart.

I am the President of the Healy Lake Village Council and a member of the Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

More importantly, I am the daughter of a Yukon River Athabascan Elder, who has lived his entire life providing for his family, and community on the Yukon River. My dad grew up on the river, and knows it like he knows his own name.

From the time he was able to learn, he began fishing the Yukon. In his 80+ years he has taught the tradition of respect for the river, and what it provides to all who would learn.

His life has been built upon the indigenous knowledge he's blessed others with. During reports yesterday a woman from the department spoke about a replacement for fish. Perhaps hunting but as she stated, that is not an option for many like my dad due to age, others due to financial costs, and others lack that skill set.

The last two years have been heartbreaking. My dad traveled to camp with a heavy heart. He told me he questioned his very existence as he watched the river flow, unable to provide. It is heart wrenching.

I ask all of you. If you suddenly were unable to provide for your family, as you have year after year, what impact would that have on you? Your family? What impact would that have on you as an individual?

The loss of fish is personal. It has taken our identity, not to mention the severe loss of a primary nutritious food source. This loss has impacted countless people.

Our people have faced many challenges & loss over the years. Those who walked the land before us lost their land, their culture, their language, and even their children. Both of my parents were sent to boarding schools. Yet they have had the strength and resiliency to build a stronger tomorrow for their children and grandchildren, yet now they face the loss of more.

I ask you, how much more do the indigenous first peoples of this great land have to give up?

It is time to stop saying that the people on the river need to fix this problem. We are Alaska's First Peoples, and we have a birthright to provide for our families. Our Tribes are facing huge food insecurities, cultural loss and impact of wellness as tribes.

Year after year the Fish & Game have put limits on fishing the Yukon without any successful return or answers yet for a millenia Native People have taken what we needed without adverse impact to the ecosystem. We need you to do whatever it takes to meet the promise made by Congress of ANILCA Title 8, to provide for Alaska Native's way of life.

I support 79 this is already legal by the Federal Subsistence Board and long term traditional and customary use should be available to the whole river.

I vehemently oppose 80. It is inflammatory, is based upon opinion rather than fact and is divisive of the Yukon River people, and clearly as you can see today, we stand together.

I oppose 81. Our salmon are in jeopardy; we must do whatever it takes to protect them.

I oppose 82. As you've already heard the damage the drifts do to nets will incur the loss of nets, the cost to replace them and the time. If we are using buoys on our nets to identify them for aerial enforcement the sinking of nets should be allowed.