

Hello Madam Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Chantae Kochuten. I am from False Pass, Alaska. I am Unangax and an Aleut Corporation shareholder. I am a Belkofski Council tribal member and I am a subsistence first and commercial user of salmon in Area M. I grew up in False Pass with strong values and a lifestyle tied to subsistence fishing with my dad and my sisters. Fishing has provided nourishment for my family for generations, and it is why I am able to give testimony here today. The entire Alaska Peninsula region – King Cove, Sand Point, Cold Bay, Akutan, False Pass, and Nelson Lagoon – are culturally dependent on salmon fishing. Almost everyone in these communities' either fishes commercially, works in a support industry for fishing or participates in subsistence and personal use fisheries. My father has since retired from commercial fishing and now participates in subsistence and personal use harvesting of salmon in Area M. My parents rely on subsistence to fill their freezers.

As a subsistence user with strong ties to the commercial fishing industry I oppose any action that reduces fishing times for Alaska Peninsula Fishermen and the communities. Like many of the communities in the AYK, our communities are also diminutive and without the fisheries, many of the communities would fail to exist. The solutions brought forth in front of you from AYK are unrealistic to keep our communities afloat. There is no benefit to anyone. I am empathetic to the struggles our neighbors in the other regions are facing but blaming Area M because it continues to be a sustainable fishery is not a solution, especially when the science supports this claim. You have heard many testify before me urging you to pay attention to the science which shows the Area M salmon is not the result of the diminished salmon runs in the AYK. Thank you for your time today.