

Madam chair and members of the board. My name is Angela Johnson and I am from The Native Village of Nelson Lagoon. I put in proposal 128 to shorten the depth of the drift gillnet gear for the north area m section from 70 meshes deep to 45. This excludes Nelson Lagoon because Nelson Lagoon does not need to be any more than 29 meshes deep. The reason for this proposal is to try and put something in place to reduce fishing in the north line area m section to hopefully benefit our fishery. The Nelson Lagoon salmon fishery has been struggling for a long time because of the intercept fishery north of us. Although we have been meeting our escapement goal, last year the weir was kept in place for 2 extra weeks just to meet the minimum goal. ~~Our subsistence efforts have declined tremendously over the last 5 years because there is not enough fish to even take home.~~ Nelson Lagoon has been fighting for protections from the north area m intercept fishery for a very long time.

Generations of Unangan/Aleut people have studied the way the fish travel to Nelson Lagoon for hundreds of years. The area of Nelson Lagoon has so many streams and lakes where fish go to spawn. The damage that is done to our system, which I believe will begin to negatively affect the rest of the north line, is going to start showing even more substantially if we do not put more protections in place. We don't want to see Nelson Lagoon miss our escapement goal. We are already in such a dire position.

Why are we continuously having to fight for our cultural identity? Why are we expected to continuously struggle while the north line fishery flourishes? We cannot let profit outweigh conservation for the Nelson Lagoon section. There are things out of our control like climate change and warming waters, but

we can try to control the over fishing that is happening on the north line area m. That line that is fished at Ilnik and OPH is basically a highway for the fish heading to all their spawning streams and lakes. A known fact in Nelson Lagoon is the second north area m has any kind of restrictions or limits it immediately benefits us. We see it with our own eyes and experience it every year. If Ilnik and OPH are closed or even just put on a limit, 3 to 4 days later we see a push of fish come through the river. It has been the same issue every single board of fish cycle and I would like to come to an agreement that will stay in place so that we don't have to keep revisiting this issue every cycle. We need to come up with some kind of solution that will repair and conserve our fishery. I am open to negotiating and open to other ideas that will help benefit and protect the Nelson Lagoon fishery. My main goal is to conserve my fishery. When the Nelson Lagoon fishery begins to flourish again it will be good for everybody in the north area m fishery. Thank you.