

What a profound tragedy we are facing. This decision will not affect just one community — it will impact every community in Area M.

These struggles run deep through generations. My grandfather, Babe Newman, fought tirelessly for fishermen's rights until his death. A harbor bears his name because of his dedication. My husband's father lost his life on the water, doing what he loved. These are not just memories — they are sacrifices tied to this way of life.

My father, Ernest Weiss, continues to serve as Natural Resource Director for the Aleutians East Borough. In our family, fishing is not just work — it is identity, responsibility, and cultural inheritance. Because the future of the fishery became so uncertain, my family made the painful

decision to uproot and leave in search of stability. But we are still deeply connected. Our children return each summer to fish — not only for income, but to carry on the Unanga tradition and honor their heritage. I hope one day we can return home. For now, we hold onto the powerful memories of what these communities once were — and what they still can be.

Please, do what is right for these communities. Do what is right for the families, the culture, and the generations who deserve the opportunity to continue this way of life.