

Salutations madam chair and fellow members of this board. (I was unsure about the time I would be providing testimony)

My name is Millena Jordan, I am a young Koyukon Athabascan woman hailing from Rampart and Tanana. Blessed, yet cursed, to be one of the last to have had the traditional experiences of growing up on the Yukon as I did.

When I was in high school I was fortunate enough to be able to experience studying abroad for a year in Europe. I was aghast to go to a small local market in the middle of Europe and see “FRESH ALASKAN SALMON” next to turkey cold cuts.

Our Alaskan stock has always been coveted and for that reason on the global scale it is sold. Paying for countless jobs, holding its own as a “natural resource” of the great state of Alaska. And by God are we paying for that price now.

I want to quote testimony I gave here three years ago at the last BOF meeting since we are essentially facing the same predicament “As an Alaskan native my ancestors lived off the land for millennia as stewards of the land. Who only took what they needed to survive. It wasn’t subsistence, it was sustenance. Not for sport or profit. And as of now our sustenance needs as a people are not being met, escapement goals are sky high compared to actual physical numbers. Yet our chums are being commercially harvested and sold. I just want to cite and remind the people of Alaska the statute promised subsistence priority 16.05.258. “

Yet here, in 2026. All across the world the aquatic biome, our sacred fish and marine life are being constantly threatened and in danger.

We have only felt the negative effects on the Yukon river and other drainages. As subsistence users we used to harvest less than 1% now we are not allowed to harvest. The harsh reality is the life cycle of all salmon are constantly under duress, threatened by numerous **human caused** factors and other environmental variables, the fact that it has sustained till now is astonishing. We need to start focusing on rebuilding these overfished stocks and protecting “essential fish habitat” by

adopting statutes to protect the longevity of the precious resource since habitat is being reiterated in these spaces.

The reports this board receives to make decisions for these meetings state “it eliminates harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with an identified harvestable surplus and management plans in place to reduce intercept of stocks of concern and stocks that are in low abundance.”

What science is being used to calculate these impacts? And what about all of the unidentified variables that don't have a place in these equations.

There is irreversible damage to over 80% of the world's coral reefs around the globe, reflecting the circumstances of the waters of our world's last stock of wild salmon. Which is so greatly coveted.

Subsistence living has been pivotal in my life before I knew what subsistence even meant. But the change in ecosystems, game, and our fish has been substantial even in my own short lifetime.

I'm not saying this to blame or thinking your attention to these problems can solve it all. I am stating this so you can be a part of the initiation to preserve what little is left. To ensure we reverse the actions of making a functionally extinct salmon. To save a species. To save our future generations.

These ecological conundrums are not within this board's control, but you do have the power to provide a window, a small window of opportunity for the longevity of this dwindling species. Bestowing a chance for this resilient species to prosper.

Thank you madam chair, board members, staff, and attendees for hearing our testimony and for your time and consideration. In closing. Every salmon STILL counts. Salutations madam chair and fellow members of this board. (I was unsure about the time I would be providing testimony)

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