

Madam Chair and Board:

My name is Dale Carlson, a Tribal Member of Chignik Bay. I'm a lifelong commercial and subsistence fisherman from Chignik, and a permit holder for over 43 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear to what we have to say during these hearings.

I ask you to take a moment, look up, and see who is in this room. I also ask all the Chignik fisherman, family, or representatives in the audience here to raise your hands. As you can see, our Chignik representation is small, **but what you might not know** is that our representation is decreasing year after year. Why is that? It's because of the inability to fish and our traditional ways of fishing are being forced out of Chignik. **There are not many of us left.**

We have not been able to fish because of repeated collapses in 2018, 2020, and 2021 when Chignik did not meet its escapement. Painfully, while Chignik was closed other fisheries remained open. Forced towards other opportunities, many of our fleet have gone elsewhere for their livelihood.

Proposal 108 repealing the fishing time in June around Mitrofanina Island. This proposal is a hard one for me to support because I made my living fishing around Mitrofanina for 43 years, but I know we need to do something by not fishing in June and catching incidental Chums and Kings. Therefore, I have to support Proposition 108 because

it's a start, and I'm willing to give that up for Chignik's ability to fish in the future.

Proposal 110 reducing the seine depth. This one is also another tough one for me personally because I know that using a deeper net will result in catching more fish. And we all want to catch more fish at the end of the day, right? But again, I'm willing to give this up because it'll help with the conservation efforts for years to come.

I support Proposal 111 of splitting Mitrofanina into Eastern and Western Districts so it can be managed as two separate districts, given it would be easier for the Department. In my opinion, this should be done to other areas in the State that have immature fish in their certain areas instead of having those areas self-managed (or self-policed) by those fishing in that area. I'm skeptical of self-management because we all know that fisherman are not honest with each other, and it has, for the most part, always been a good-old-boys club.

We have heard from the mouths of Area M fisherman in testimony at this meeting admitting to Chum Chucking. This admits and puts on record that the practice is being done and is a direct consequence of this Board's allowance for self-management. Now that the Board has heard this, I ask you what are you going to do with the information?

I also heard testimony earlier that Area M seiners count every fish by species and are transparent. As a fisherman, I know this is impossible. There is no way that every fish is

counted prior to being weighed or brought to the tender. If these Area M fishermen are as transparent as they claim, show us the records and convince us they were collected honestly.

To my knowledge Area M is the only commercial fishery in the State that allows fishermen to manage themselves, and I believe it's NOT WORKING. I ask you to use your authority granted upon you by the State to manage these fisheries by adopting the proposals mentioned at the start of my testimony and repeal the current scheme of pseudo (Sue-Dough) of self-management.

I support proposals: 108, 109, 111, 120, 126, 130, 133, 136, 140, 143, 147, 148, 151, 152.

I oppose 119, 121 through 125, 128, 129, 134, 135, 137 through 139, 142, 144, 145, 149, 150, and 153.

Thank you Madam Chair and Board for allowing my testimony be added to the record.

Dale Carlson
