

Board of Fish Testimony 2/21/26

My name is Janet Woods

I'm an Alaskan Athabascan fisher women born and raised in Alaska we have been one with the land, water, fish, and animals for centuries. As Alaskan native we have always respected the animals and fish because they have feed us from the time of memorial.

It's sad for me and others to witness the effects it is having on our native people not being able to fish. And then to see reports that in Area M 32,430 chinook salmon harvest and sold and over 3 million chums harvested and sold.

Under State Statute: Subsistence come first when surplus is limited. Mixed-stock Policy requires proportional conservations burdens; Sustainable Salmon Policy demands precaution to maintain sustained yield.

It is a crisis when Pilot Station sonar far below escapement goals, Eagle River sonar is will under the 71,000 Canadian-origin Chinook rebuilding target. (I believe that count was 23,000 for 2025) Summer chum at records lows; fall chum designated a stock of concern. These are not just biological failures – they are failures of the State's legal responsibilities.

And yet in Area M, unlimited chinook harvest and unenforced cap on chum capture. Fleets can pivot to other fisheries; Yukon and Kuskokwim River families cannot.

The tender and processors weight ratio is too high and don't get actual count of number of fish caught and would recommend BOF change for all salmon species most importantly salmon and sockeye. Another recommendation a genetic chinook management on south peninsula side to determine the river of origin.

The Yukon River salmon habitat remains pristine – the losses are happening in the ocean, not the rivers.

If this BOF does not close down the openings in Area M from the middle of June to the end of June to let the chinook and chums pass through to make it to the spawning grounds there isn't going to be fish and it will be a total collapse of chinook/chum stock and it doesn't take a scientific or any other report its just common sense. And in closing my hopes is that this BOF take a good hard honest look at what's happening and come up with a management plan that will sustain our fish into the future. We Alaska Native born and raised here will never leave. But once resources are gone Outside interest will be gone and we are left to pick up the pieces and divestation of our waters and will continue on. Thank you