

Rich Freireich Public Testimony:

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

For the record, I am here today to support Proposal 136. My name is Rich Freireich, from Grayling. I want to reference AC8, this is the GASH AC Proposal and I am a member of this AC.

- The current system we are operating within is, in my mind, a **double standard**. I feel it sets a precedence for unfair practices. (In my mind, this constitutes a gross negligence between the commercial-subsistence sectors respectively? it is misleading and sows the seeds for uncertainty and speculation)
- We carry the burden of adhering to the standards set forth and have limited voice in collecting and reviewing the data that informs these standards. No matter what happens with the rule-making and implementation on the State level, **the end result is invariably the same outcome of our people on the Yukon bearing the brunt of the burden.**
- As an effective tool, former member Stan Zuray, and his research and practice of in stream incubation of salmon eggs shows what successful data and implementation can potentially look like.
- Our runs on the Yukon are dismal, **what is the point of us following these regulations if they are not followed by the commercial sector that impact the survival of these salmon?**

I am not against Area M. I understand that there are many people that need the fishery to support their families.

- I would just like to emphasize how much sacrifice there has been from our people. Due to our circumstances, **right now**, as we speak, on the Yukon **we are facing potential extinction of salmon on the river.**
- I am not here today to attack or get people riled up - I am **looking at the gravity of our situation.**

- The way business is currently being conducted, **do we have three more years to save our salmon? In my mind, I don't think we do.**
- Are there any ways to implement administrative rules or controls that **truly warrant a compromise?**

We are at odds with the State and Federal governments, and commercial fisheries. We are already at a disadvantage. **If these current management practices continue, our chances to rebuild the salmon fishery on the Yukon will be essentially zero.** In closing, if we don't change the narrative, I'm afraid we're going to close the book on the Yukon river salmon and it's people.

Thank you.

Notes:

- Double standard, rules in BoF, kick it back to area biologists, operate with all the rules. We have the burden of adhering to the stands
- Not fair data collection
- No matter what happens with implementation etc, the end result is always the (invariably) same outcome, tribes bear brunt of burden
 - o If we're not allowed to fish, why can industry?
 - o We say every fish matters, how are you adhering to these standards?
 - o Run dismal, what is the point of us following these standards if not followed by other communities that impact
- I am not against all of area m, understand that there are any people that work, live, and subsistence fish there. I want to emphasize how much sacrifice there has been from our people. Due to our circumstances, right now, as we speak, on the Yukon we are facing potential extinction of salmon on the river.
 - o Are there any ways to implement some sort of administrative rules/controls where it is a compromise
- Don't want to attack or get riled up. Looking at the reality
 - o The way buiesness is conducted, do we have three years? I feel like we do not.
- We are at odds with state and fed gov, area m and trawlers – already at a disadvantage, odds to rebuild a fishery, if this continues, does not pan out.