

Madame chair, members of the board;

We would like to thank you for holding this meeting and listening to our concerns and testimonies.

My name is Mariano Floresta and I am from Clarks Point. I was born and raised on commercial fishing with my family and son.

I believe my main concern is our declining King run in the Nushagak River. There are a lot of contributing factors and I believe interception is one of them.

I am the youngest of 5 and we all grew up commercial set netting until we were old enough to go on a boat. This knowledge was passed down all the way to me and now I show my son.

I can remember our family would go down on the beach with a short King net and we would catch enough Kings for the winter in a short time. Now we are lucky to get a half a dozen before a commercial opener. It is a scary thought to have no more Kings.

Therefore, I am in opposition of Proposals 148 and 152 that contribute to the interception of non-target stocks.

I am also in opposition of Proposal 188 to allocate 15% of unharvested Togiak sac roe herring to Dutch Harbor. I believe that allocation should remain in Togiak.

I also oppose Proposals 150 and 153 to allow the use of monofilament for this fishery.

I am in support of Proposal 130 to reduce fishing time in the South Unimak fishery.

I am also in opposition of Proposals 138, 146, and 139 to increase fishing time for set gill netting.

I am in support of Proposal 110 to decrease the seine depth, I believe this also contributes to interception.

In conclusion, I would like to say this: There has to be a way to fix this problem. More management, more study, more cooperation.

I taught my son, my nephews, and nieces about respecting and honoring the land and sea, and it's a really good feeling to see them teaching their kids and others.

It's difficult and painful to try to explain to them why our fish run is depleting. I hope we can find a way to work together to fix these problems.

We would like to thank you for your time and effort for listening to our testimonies.

Thank you.