

Hello Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Danielle Stickman, my grandmother is Gladys Evanoff and my grandfather was the late Gust Evanoff. I'm Dena'ina and Koyukon Athabascan. I grew up in Nondalton until I was 10 years old. I have and will always go back during fish camp season, which occurs in July. I would like to support Proposal 83. In 2012, the regulation to prohibit putting fish parts in the water was adopted. The following summer an official came to our fish camp and started talking to my 9 year old brother as well as my younger cousins, as they were fishing off the dock. The official told them they were not allowed to use a rod and reel off the docks or next to the beach of our cutting tables. The kids were scared and didn't feel like they were allowed to fish with rod and reel anymore.

Like Dan Dunaway mentioned yesterday—this “no chumming” regulation is a bit confusing and needs clarification or at least a written exception for traditional fish campsites. For hundreds of years my Ancestors have thrown salmon parts that we do not use back into the Newhalen River, which then becomes food for rainbow trout, whitefish, Dolly Varden, and other local nonsalmon fish species. There have been studies done on the migration patterns of whitefish species that proves they migrate down to our fish camps every summer. The regulation that was passed in 2012 mentioned that “Chumming alters the natural feeding routine of the rainbow trout, char, and arctic grayling”. I would humbly disagree that for our area, surrounding 6-mile lake and the Newhalen River, what you call “chumming” is actually years of co-existing and sustainably living with the local nonsalmon fish. For these reasons and many more that I don't have time to discuss, I support proposal 83. Thank you for your time.

Danielle Stickman