

RC 25

02/22/2017

Dear Member,

The following would be what I would consider my testimony for the 2017 Cook Inlet Fin Fish meeting. Thank you for your time in reading it.

My father is a gambler. His gamble being Commercial Salmon Fishing, some years he makes money, a lot of money. Other years he loses money, a lot of money. It's the risk he's willing to take in with his gamble. It's a risk all fishermen take. From Crew to Catch, the excitement, the rush, and that one big day, that one big tide, that one moment that pays off and you know why you've made so many sacrifices. Why you've risked your life, push yourself harder, and let yourself get lost from the world and dive deeper into the fish zone. My Father spent years of his younger life fishing all around Alaska, from Sitka to Nome, but in the end he narrowed his fishing focus close to home, specifically an area known as North Kalifornsky Beach sub district 244-32. This place on the Kenai Peninsula is where he was born and raised. It is also a place where his children were born and raised and where his grandchildren have been born and are being raised. So it makes sense why he chose this location. But fishing here it's not as easy it should be. He can't just spend his spring preparing for the upcoming season, preparing gear, starting trucks and boats, paying fees and insurance, finding ends of leased sets, buying gas and groceries, and hiring a crew. He also has to constantly mind his 3-miles of beach and compromise with other interest groups changes made to his fishing area. These changes are managed and decided on by a Fishing Board, a board that listens to hundreds of people just like my dad, asking for more of something or less of something. I've spent time thinking about it, if I were to address this board, what I would say? What would my "something" be? Would I base my request on facts, numbers, and data? Would I be emotional and try to show heart? In the end I decided to keep it simple and sum up my "something" with three questions. What do you like? What do you not like? What would you change? I feel that these three questions could be applied to so many scenarios we face in life and I ask that they be considered when looking at all the "somethings" that you are addressing over the course of the next two weeks, as your answers will affect him, his children, and his grandchildren, all Alaskans who gamble on fishing and the decisions you make in the interests of our livelihood.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing all the answers,

Sarah Hollier-Pellegrom

Kenai, Alaska