

My name is Stanley Pete. I am providing a written comment in support of proposal 231.

Subsistence fishing for Yukon King Salmon is not only living off the king salmon, it has spiritual and religious impacts on the Yupik people.

The Yupik people should be obligated to continue their ancestral traditional. The Yupik people believe in "Ellam yua", the creator. The harvest of the first king salmon entering the river lifts them up spiritually and enables them to honor and give thanks to "Ellam yua" after a long winter.

Like our brothers in the interior who use moose in their religious ceremonies, we use king salmon in our religious ceremonies.

The ACLU argued a Yupik fisherman who is a sincere believer in his religious role as steward of nature believes he must fulfill his prescribed role. Barring him from harvesting king salmon thwarts the practice of a real religious belief.