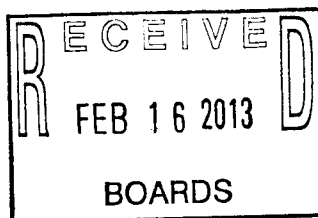


RC 15



February 16, 2013

To Whom It May Concern;

I support Proposal 162 to the Board of Fisheries, to close Unalaska Bay to trawl fishing.

I'm a lifelong resident of Unalaska for over 32 years and have sport fished, subsistence fished and hunted here during this time as my family has done for many generations. It was passed down to me and I am excited at the chance to someday pass it onto my children.

I've witnessed a tremendous decline in fish and game in Unalaska Bay where we gather fish and game for subsistence and our livelihoods. It is a very important part of our life that we need to protect. At the same time we see these big trawlers towing around us in our traditional areas we hunt and fish and then seeing the dead fish floating and washed up on the beaches. It's very discouraging to say the least when I am out on my boat fishing and hunting for the next season's supply and see a trawler dragging its nets right in front of me heading out through our inner bay.

I now have to go outside the bay in my smaller boat to find fish and game now which is dangerous and is expensive. The weather has a tendency of picking up quick with the tides once we exit our bay for fishing and if we don't plan for it with the short windows of opportunity during the summer months we risk not being able to fill our freezers for the winter. I have seen a huge decline in my experiences as the years have gone on in our inner bays. I have had to go out farther and farther and we are starting to notice the decline in all of the outer areas as well.

Everyone in our community supports this closure. The residents who call Unalaska home and are here to stay. There are companies and corporations that are about a profit and not preserving the way of life that Unalaska has made so unique to itself and region. We have made great strides in preserving what we have through all these booms in fishing industries, yet we are really starting to forget that the local residents who are not seeing to profit from these waters, but sustain a way of life are becoming jeopardized for future generations. Throughout the state of Alaska many other communities have been given this protection around their communities and it is time for us to do the same. We need to protect our rights to be able to continue to fish and hunt and I formally request you support to this proposal.

Thank You,


Fredrick Constantine Lekanoff

907-359-3990

Email: Fredrick@AriCorp.us