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Hello I am George Wilson Jr. I am the president of Levelock Natives Limited Corporation and today I would like to speak on the behalf of my people.

I would like to talk you all for giving me the opportunity to speak again. Yesterday I was a bit nervous and forgot who I was representing and found it easy to speak about myself and my experience. Therefore today I would like to speak for the shareholders of Levelock Limited and the board about what we feel is important to this last great fishery on earth.

Our corporation was involved in the fishery until about 15 years ago, prior to that our corporation owned the Foggy Cape and was quite successful in the fish tendering business. The corporation is now in the process of getting back into the fisheries. This would give a few local shareholders jobs and the local economy a much needed boost.

The board has over 200 shareholders and a lot of them still participate in the commercial fishery and or the subsistence fishing. We are in support of dual permits on one vessel and one owner of dual drift permits. We also support the dual permit system that currently the setnet have with a single ownership. We feel it gives local small family's more power over their long range ownership of these permits which are leaving the region at a high rate. In Levelock we have a strong fishing community of 85 residents with a large % of permit holders in both the drift and setnet fishery.

Within this community we have a young group of fisher persons who are showing interest in joining the fisheries. With the current dual permit system we have in both the drift and setnet fishery they have the ability to join a boat or beach operation and to gain experience of being a commercial fisherman. We have seen the benefit of local set netters who have dual permits and have heard about their success they have both financially and also in keeping the second permit in the bay region.

We heard yesterday that since the dual drift permit system went into effect that a few dormant or latent permits came out of the wood work. A lot of these "sleepers" came from our local communities here in the bay and throughout Alaska as well. There are several elders in our community that have not used their permits in years due to medical reasons or the lack of interest in family members. By opening up the dual permit system it allowed our local people who were already invested in the fisheries, to take over other family permits and expand their business. This is an outstanding program for us, as keeps these permits in the region and in families that otherwise would have been sold to outsiders and lost forever. Our people cannot afford to lose these permits or their stake in our resources.

My understanding of the dual drift permit program was that it was to bring local drift permits back into the fishery. This has been obviously successful. Furthermore, the program was meant to reduce gear in the bay and it has reduced it by 3600 fathoms of gear. So in rebuttal to those people who say that a dual permit boat puts them at a disadvantage because of the 200 fathoms, if they would just consider that without the dual permit system they would be competing against another vessel and 150 fathoms. Overall the dual permit system reduces the amount of net in the water and reduces "competition" considerably.

The board feels that with the dual permit system going away in both drift and setnet there would be a huge out migration of permits that we could never recover from.

We also feel that the 32 limit is adequate because it has worked for over 50 years. Our ancestors fished in these fisheries on much smaller boats with sails. And beyond that, they caught far more fish back then, than we do today with bigger power boats with hydraulics. This blows my mind – bigger, faster, boats don't make better fisherman. If the board of fish where to change the limit or have no limit at all, the local citizens here in the region would be at a huge disadvantage. We generally just fish the Bristol bay salmon season and our 32' boats would be too small to join other fisheries. But to bring in other larger boats that currently fish in other parts of Alaska where they belong would put locals here at a disadvantage. Most of us don't have the financial means to get a 500 to a million dollar vessel. This fishery and local infrastructure can't and doesn't support a vessel over 32' or a vessel of that is would cost close to a million dollars to build.

Thanks you for your time again.