

Chairwoman Marit Carlson Van Dort, Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

October 25, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Carlson-Van Dort and Board of Fisheries members: Re: Nelson Lagoon
Advisory Committee Emergency Petition

My name is Connor Murphy and I own and set net operation in Port Moller, AK which operates harvest in the Port Moller Bight Section in the Northern District of Area M, and I am concerned about the Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee Emergency Petition. I am the only permit holder that consistently fished in the follow section for the past 6 seasons and for the past 20+ years. While Nelson Lagoon has experienced below average returns recently, they have made the sockeye escapement in 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and every year for the past 50 years except for 2011.

The petition calls for a complete shutdown of the Port Moller bight without any scientific data showing that the small amounts of harvest that occur have any effect on the Nelson Lagoon. The Port Moller Bight Section has always been managed based of the abundance of the Bear River escapement as it shares a border with the Bear River section as it shares a border with the following section and is located 12 nautical miles from the terminus of Bear River. This petition has various unintended consequences as would put me out of business next summer and would likely put all processors and fisherman, including Nelson Lagoon fishermen out of business shortly after.

Please reject this emergency petition and consider reasonable ideas for the Nelson Lagoon community.

Sincerely,

Connor Murphy

PO Box 887

Kodiak, AK 99615