

September 6, 2024

Anne Marie Eich Assistant Regional Administrator Protected Resources Division Alaska Region NMFS

## Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

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## RE: Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon Endangered Species Act Petition (NOAA-NMFS-2024-0042)

The Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, our Citizens and Supporters, strongly oppose the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) determination to further consider the Wild Fish Conservancy's petition to list Gulf of Alaska (GOA) king salmon as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The listing of king salmon as an endangered or threatened species could create several unintended consequences, including economic impacts to fisheries and communities, food security, cultural implications, and the complexity of species management. These potential consequences would have significant and disproportionate negative impact on tribal citizens, our coastal communities, and Indigenous ways of life. The focus of NOAA's investigation should be related to the primary threats to the king salmon's survival, which are the commercial trawling industry and subsequent bycatch, as well as ocean conditions, and freshwater habitat destruction.

## Tlingit & Haida Tribal Citizen and Supporters Signatories:

Aaron Angerman Amanda Cadas Antonette Robinson April Vanderkamp Abby Morales Amanda Hering Abigail Duffield Amanda Warren Ari FitzGibbon Adelheid Koepfer Amy Rowe Danielson Asadbek Melibaev Adriela White AnaVera Morato Ashya Thomas-Allen AJ Cho Andrea Medley Aubrey Gamble Autumn Cantu Alex Jenkins Andrea Medley Andrea TheoJohn Alexa Szczepanski Azikiwe Mohammed Alexander Harms (Johnson) Bambi Littlefeather Andres Camacho Alexandra Dindinger-Hill Barbara Cadiente-Nelson Alice Williams Andrew Fulton Barbara Di Gilio Andrew Sturtevant Alicia Marryott Barbara Dude Alicyn Syme Angel Gross Barbara Fujimoto Alisha Esteves Angela Ebona-Wheaton Barbara Mathes Alison Fryberg Angela Michaud Bear Yates Alison Quigley Angela Brown **Becky Qualls** Allan Bradley Angela Ferrari Benjamin Campen Allison Demmert Anna Bradley Benjamin Phillips Anna Masri Bernadette Allen Alysha Guthrie Alyssa Velazquez Annnjo Mercer Betsy Peratrovich Amanda Blankenship Anthony Nelson Jr Bill Pfeifer, Jr

**Bob Ridley** Ed Fiedler Christopher Carlson Bobby De Hoyos **Christy Finn Ed Kalkins** Brandi Norton Claude Young Elaine Benjamin Brandon Gomez Cody Martin Elida Kocharian Connie Beemer Breanna Willard Elizabeth Franklin Corina Valdez Elizabeth Marin Brenda Campen Brenda Demmert Corrine Garza Elizabeth Reimer Brenda Norheim Courtney Shiels Elizabeth Seabreeze **Brent Paylor** Cristina Smith Elizabeth Watanabe Brian Weddel Crystal Alexander Elle Weberling Brian Fell Crystal Demientieff Worl Ellen Bradley Crystal Didrickson Brian Holter **Elvon Douglas** Brian Kanen Crystal Mclane Elycia Smith Elyssia Taug Brianna Jokerst Cynthia Little

Brita Alander Cynthia Petersen Emily Friedman-Carroll
Brittney Lindstrom Cyril Zuboff Emmet Benolken
Cameron Losi Cyrus Walker Erika Porter
Camille Gilbert Damion Ripley Erika Swanson
Cara Bell Dan Morta Ernestine Dugaqua

Carl See Daniele Ray Esmeralda Torres-Martinez

Carmen Rock Danielle Leanza Ésminà Secret
Carol Vega Danika Smalley Ethan Kuhn
Carol Martinez Darren Snyder Eunice James

Carole Johns-Okamoto Darwin Walter Jr Evangeline Maraman Carolina Castello Dawn Fluharty Evangeline Willard Caroline Dittman Dean Frank Evelvn Dierick Carrie Perkins Felicia Huddleston Deana McGrew Flovd Peterson Caryn Cowin DeAndre Howard-King Jr Catherine Tweedy DeAnna Bradley Franc Fernandez Catherine Wassillie Deanne Didrickson Frances Natkong Debra O'Gara Francesca Nevil Cathy Bremner

Cathy Bremner Debra O'Gara Francesca Nevi Chantae Jackson Della Coburn Fred Freer Charlee Scott Dennis Neff Fred Hamilton Charlene Robertson Deven Mason Fusi Puletau Charlene Wolfe Diann Morrison G Davidson

Gabriel Anaruk III Charles Denny Dinah Hobson Gabrielle Thomas Charles Paul Dixie Hutchinson Charlie Carle Don Horn Gail Dabaluz Charlie Taug Don Nickerson Garrett Dubose China Montoya Donald Frank Garth Stein Christaline Bobby-Donald Ordonia Gary Cruse

DugaquaDonald KasbohmGary MillsChristie JamiesonDonna SelquistGary SmithChristina CaldwellDonna TennisonGeorge James, Jr.Christina DavisDonnaRae JamesGeraldeen Stoll

Christine Wachmann Doreen Garrity Geraldine Gardner-Rivera

Jason Cain Gerry Hope Joseph Truitt Gina Aruanno Jason Leask Joseph Alexander Joseph Castillo Glenn Prax Jaymison Morrison Graig Hill Jean Pierce Joseph Krewer Grant EchoHawk Jean Reddi Joseph Lucero Greg Mund Joshua Goeden Jean Sam Grey Webster Jeane Breinig Joshua Sandoval Gudrun Dennis Jeanette Zeromski Josie Martin Hailee Kendrick Jeb Phillips Joyanne Bloom Hallie Bissett Jennifer Discuillo Juanita Lanzo Hanna Wilson Jennifer Edwards Julia Elliott Hannah Etengoff Jennifer Herrmann Julia Ostrander Jennifer Millard Harper Gunn Juliana Smith Harrison Weinfeld Jennifer Valentine Julie Phipps Harry Bradley Jennifer Wood Julie Stokes Heather Douville Jeremiah Johnson Julie Yates-Fulton Heather Gatti Jerome Nathan Julius Natkong Heide Coppotelli Jerry Fulkerson June Koval Helen Hanlon-ward Jesse Nelson Justin Walker Helene Bennett Jesse Parr Justina Kerstein **Hubert Brown** Jessica Clarke Júuyaak Crystal Fierro Jessica Davis Hunter Fulton Kahlil Irving Ian Seward Jessica Pavlik Kaitlyn Fowler Ilima James Jessie Eaton Kali Alvarez Iris Klingler Jessie Herman-Haywood Karen Elliott Isabell Bryan Jessie Vranich Karen Johnson **Jackson Combs** Jessie Wright Karen Olivas Karen Barnes Jacob Trotter Connors Jill Weitz

Jade-Emily McClelland JL Angell Kari Benolken Jaimie Palmer Joan McCkenny Kariel Galbraith Jakob deCastro Joann Koch Karina Manukyan James Baker Joanne Mason Kasiana Mork James Martin Joe Emerson Kat Haber James Masse Jr Joel Ingwaldson Kate Laster Jamie Cowan Joel Jackson Katherine Carter Jamie Gomez Johanna Mitchell Katherine Kitka Jana Haren Johanna Young Janalee Gage John Blanco

Kathryn Evens Kathy Griffin Jane Nachazel-Ruck John Blankenship Kathy Kitka Janelle Sharp John Crofoot Kathy Lorenz Janelle Martin John Damon Kaufman Jennethan Janessa Symons John Oda Kawika Makua Janet Delaney John Williams Kayla Peterson Janice Jackson John Zigalla Kayleen Fulton Janice Shafer Jonathan Brouwer Ke'alalakina Napiha'a

Janie Jensen Jonathan Henkelman Kelli Bradley

Michael Isturis Kellie Lynch Maggie Hayward Kelsey Sheakley Makayla Chappell Michael Madden Malia Towne Kendra Pountney Michael Velazquez Kent Barkhau Mallory Story Michael Vest Malvenia Tyson Kenzie Ballew Michele Metz Kevin Milton Mamie Williams Michelle Bruce Kia Vaara Manuel Hernandez Midori Hogg Maranda Hamme Mike Jones Kim Landeen Kim Morgan Marcia Miller Mitch Brooks Kim Weaver Marena Willard Mitchell Meyer Kimberly Burke Margaret McNeil Molly Volk Monica Wafford Kimberly Nesbitt Margaret Starks Maria Hawkins Kinsie Young Nancy D Keen

Kristin Velez Maria-Theresa Haslam Naomi Boyles-Muehleck

Kristine Lane Mariah Parent Naomi Michalsen Marianna Bethel Kyle Johnson Natalie Anderson Kyle Revolinski Marie Johanson Nathan Wright Lance Preston Nathaniel Mitchell Marilyn June Gleason Larrena Johnson Nenita Wilson (Bremner) Laura VerMeulen Marilyn Loney Nicholas Clark Laura Deoras **Marion Salazar** Nicholas Demmert Laura Herndon Marissa Capito Nicholas Gause Laura Revels Marissa Hatley Nicholas Nelson Laurel Williams Mark Klingler Nicole Mcnutt Marry Knutsen Lauren Roush Nicole Vickers Marta Wilmoth Nikita Kelly

Laurie ArndtMarta WilmothNikita KellyLawrence DemmertMartha GallagherNoah CasparLawrence WrightMary EdenshawNofretiri Ketah-RoxasLawrence YoungMary EvensNorma Jean Wilson

Lee Lucero Mary Moreno-Soots Norman Hoppas Leilani Walkush Matt Feyerabend Olivia Lambert Matt Mendonsa Olivia Dominguez Leo Peterson Leona Matthews Max Mielke Olivia Pedroza Leonora Evans Maxine Richert Osce Robertson Leora Breese Mayen Hoadley Pamela Zeller Leroy Dabaluz Megan Sursely Pamlea Bogda Leslie Montgomery Mela Verzi Patrice Wilkins Leticia Magana Melanie Jackson Patricia Alexander Lianna Kressin Melba Eala Patricia McIntyre Lisa Krieger Melody Ashenfelter Patricia Phillips

Lizabeth Alderette Mercedes Jack Patricia Rodrigues Louis Jones Merissa LeVeque-Dick Patricia Yates Louise Petersen Merle Hawkins Patrick Quigley Lyndsey Schaefer Mia Sursely Paul Olson Maddison Vickrey Michael Allerton Paula Peterson Madeline Brainard Michael Brandes Paula Phillips

Paula Shafransky
Paulette Jackson
Peggen Frank
Peter Davidson
Peter Fasolino
Peter Guerrero
Philip Marek
Phoenix Herring
Phyllis Johnson
Phyllis Hackett
Priscilla Martinez
Priya McDonough
Quin Coons

Quinlyn Holder Racheal Matthews Diaz Rachel Langford Rachel Martin Ramey Mize Raquel Fajardo

Raquel Fajardo
Raymond Douville
Rebecca Barnett
Rhoda Jensen
Rhonda Butler
Ricardo Farinas
Richard Bigelow
Richard Boyd
Richard Hanson
Richard Jackson
Richard Kincaid
Richard Peterson

Riel Bellow Rob Endsley Robert Bergan Robert George Ill Robert Shedlosky Roberta Wagner Roby Medina

Richelle Blake

Ronald Davis
Rose Fraker
Ross Paddock
Royal Hill Jr
Ruben Hoppe
Ruth Mcmaster

Sabrina Scarsella

Ruth Stough

Saif Azzuz
Salim Houck
Samantha Ponce
Samantha Williams
Samson Devine
Samuel Filiaggi
Samuel Volk
Sandi Jones
Sandra Churchill

Sandra Edwardson Sandra Empson Sarah Snell Sarah Dybdahl Sarah Hafer Sarah Peele Sasha Anderstrom Schon Duncan Scott Fulton

Scott Korman
Sean Daugherty
Selina Poulsen
Shaina Oliver
Shaleena Delgado
Shania Murphy
Shannon Harrison
Shannon James
Shannon Jensen
Sharon Lee
Sharon Mallonee
Sharon Matthews
Sharon Morton

Sharon Zurfluh

Shawaan Jackson-Gamble
Shawna Puustinen
Shay Anderson
Shay Mata MacPherson
Shayna Schultz
Sheena Samuelson
Sheila Mitchell
Sheila Noel
Shelley Bremner
Sheri Wylie

Sherry Mills Shirley Silva Showalter Martin Sr.

Sonja Earsley

Sonya Smith Sophia Stevenson Stacey Cannon Stefan Parrish Stella Ereaux Stephen Burris Stephen Dutschke Steve Bradford

Stephen Dutschke Steve Bradford Steven Bennett Steven Eisenbeisz Susan Brouillette Susan Hawk Susan Keen Sven Andes Sydney Browder Sydney Johnson Tami Hawks

Tammy Sangregory
Tanya Holley
Tarik Karamoko
Teasha Chancey
Terry Cummings
Tessa Cavanaugh
Theodore Lekanof
Theodore Peele
Theresa Terrill
Thomas Samuel
Thomas Young
Tiffany Bemis
Tiffany Levesque
Timothy Benolken
Tina Greer-Moeser

TJ Bertek
Todd West
Traci Grace
Tucker Barney
Tyler Cropley
Tynan Hooker-Haring

Valerie Bergin
Valerie Martin
Vanessa Allen
Veronica Redifer
Victoria Bennett
Victoria Kaer
Violet Sensmeier

Voshte Demmert-Gustafson Wanda Culp Wayne Price Wayne Jackson Wendy Todd Wesley Bowen Whitney Hair
Wigg Romona
William Daines
William Swingseth
William Wellington
Winsor Kinkade
Yarrow Vaara

Yvette Fitzjarrald Yvonne Phillips Ziona Brownlow Zoe Lewis Zofia Danielson

## Supplemental Personal Testimony submitted through Tlingit & Haida's Constant Contact Action Page:

If you rely on Gulf of Alaska king salmon culturally, financially, or in any other way, please consider providing a testimonial:

- Salmon is a part of who we are, we fish, we eat.
- As an Alaskan Native who frequently visits Juneau to see my family, the King salmon holds significant
  cultural importance. This traditional food has been a cornerstone of our culture for generations. Adding
  King salmon to the endangered species list poses a serious threat to our cultural heritage and future wellbeing, as it is a vital part of our diet. Preserving our ability to harvest salmon is essential for maintaining
  our culture and traditions.
- I grew up relying on the income from fishing king salmon and still do. Salmon is one of the ways I am able to connect back to my culture and my upbringing in Alaska. Living in the lower 48, there are few ways to be able to bring you back to your roots, and salmon is one of them.
- It is our way of life. It is the heartbeat with all tribes and people of Alaska. Salmon is the primary source of food across the state. It is part of our culture, identity, and way of life.
- Indigenous people have been fishing king salmon for thousands of years with great respect and reverence. We believe that when properly hunted and harvested animals return to continue to sustain us. Subsistence fishing has not caused the salmon returns to dwindle, corporate greed and political advancement has. I task those in positions of power to acknowledge the true problem and address it. As a salmon person from the Chilkoot River in Haines, AK, taking my ability to harvest king salmon strips me of yet another piece of my cultural identity. Haven't you already taken enough? Instead of doing the easy thing, I implore you to seek solutions that protect cultural harvesting of king salmon and ban fishing industry practices that grossly neglect the sustainability of marine life. Our elders have been telling you that this would happen, but you wouldn't listen. This is where your arrogance has gotten us. It is time to acknowledge that there are thousands of years of indigenous knowledge on resource management. Together we can change the trajectory of our planet.
- As a single income family living in a rural village, we rely heavily on king salmon to help fill our freezer with healthy subsistence foods.
- NOAA, I am an eighty-one-year-old veteran of sixty-five years as a hook & line commercial (troller) and sport charter fishing guide in Icy Strait & Cross Sound. As a salmon troller we are required to immediately field dress our catch after boarding. After sixty-five years in the business, I know where the five species of salmon feed and what they feed on. I have never caught what I would consider a starving salmon.
- It's a cop-out to blame everything on climate change, although climate change will probably be a big factor in the future. Why is it that Reds (sockeye) are showing up in record runs in Bristol Bay? I believe it is because sockeye feed on krill & plankton that thrive in different areas and shallower water than the King salmon. Up to seven-year cycle big river king salmon feed on a variety of small fish such as fry pollock, sand lance, caplin, herring, squid, worms etc. etc. and mill around close to the ocean floor for up to four years longer than other species of salmon before maturity and returning to their home rivers. Because of different feeding habits, and length of time they mill on their feeding grounds, logic tells me that the king salmon (chinook) are the most vulnerable and most likely not to survive big industry trawls.

- Our family was once able to catch our subsistence as our way of life, in recent years we are lucky to get a taste. Thank you for taking steps to help us live our lives the way we were intended.
- All of Alaska's Indigenous cultures rely on the harvest of salmon and have since time immemorial. Our
  ancestors built our lives around salmon and our people thrived because of the nutritional value that they
  provide to us.
- Economically, many in our villages rely on our ability to fish for our source of protein in our diets. The cost of food, especially meat in our small villages is extremely high, with a pound of ground beef selling for \$8-\$10 in some places. Many cannot afford to purchase at these prices even when they have good paying jobs.
- Listing Gulf of Alaska King Salmon as Endangered Species, would cut our legs out from under us in the villages.
- I been harvesting salmon since I was young. My family and I fished for centuries in Klawock. I would recommend stopping Lodge fishing and Sports Fishing for a while.
- We have always had king salmon for subsistence use and our commercial fishermen have relied on this fishery financially. Especially during the fall/winter season.

  Alaskan King Salmon has been a part of my family and mines culture for as long as I can remember! At least 3 generations. Culturally and financially.
- If king salmon are put on the ESA, it will greatly impact my life and those around me. I urge everyone to learn more about this issue.
- Salmon is not just a meal, it's a way of life for Alaskans. It sustains our health, traditions, and communities. But now, our beloved Alaska King Salmon is under threat of being listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. We must consider alternate ways to protect our salmon.
- This could have devastating consequences for Alaska Natives and our communities. Culturally, plus it's very nutritious!
- Traditional food security is integral to our culture and way of life. King salmon are a cultural keystone species that we rely on both in rural and urban areas where food security is a challenge. We know how to manage our lands and waters without taking too much or too early. By putting king salmon on the endangered species list not only would a key component of our way of life be endangered, but so would our overall well-being. Commercial trawlers should be the priority when it comes to government regulating; not a blanket regulation that would keep tribal citizens from practicing key survival skills that grocery stores, which are few and far between in rural areas and exorbitantly priced will never replace. This would mean further food insecurity and worsening health outcomes for our people and lands.
- I am a 4th generation Commercial Fisherman and completely rely on fishing as my source of income. It is just my husband and I on the boat. Just a small family trying to make a living on the ocean that has been fished by my ancestors for longer than I can count. I would love to see a 5th generation in my family out on the ocean that has sustained us and that will continue to sustain us for yeats to come. For us, fish is life.

- My 94 year old Grandfather has relied on local Salmon for maintaining his cultural diet as he is 100% Alaskan Native Tlingit. It provides the nourishment for his body and his soul to have the foods that he has grown up on and that is meaningful in our culture. Many Alaskan Natives rely on the gulf of Alaska to maintain connections to our culture by our cultural practices with king salmon (fishing, smoking/canning etc) and would be severely impacted if the true threat to the king salmon isn't addressed which include issues of bycatch, climate change etc.
- King salmon are our way of life. Period.
- The salmon is a way of life for me and my family. Not only to sustain our family throughout the year, but to share with our family members and community as part of our Tlingit culture. Also, culturally, we harvest and share salmon with our youth in cultural events, as well as sharing in our Tlingit traditional cultural events throughout the year in Ketchikan AK. This way of life has sustains us for many generations.
- Culturally the salmon has been the mainstay of our Tlingit (and Haida, Tsimshian) food diet. It is the most important part of our diet. For many generations.
- We harvest prepare and store salmon to last our family throughout the year, and then we share with others too. Our family fishes for salmon by trolling and it is a lot of hard work and expense, but it is important to us, so we continue to help our family members fish for salmon."
- Traditional food security is integral to our culture and way of life. King salmon are a cultural keystone species that we rely on both in rural and urban areas where food security is a challenge. We know how to manage our lands and waters without taking too much or too early. By putting king salmon on the endangered species list not only would a key component of our way of life be endangered, but so would our overall well-being. Commercial trawlers should be the priority when it comes to government regulating; not a blanket regulation that would keep tribal citizens from practicing key survival skills that grocery stores, which are few and far between in rural areas and exorbitantly priced will never replace. This would mean further food insecurity and worsening health outcomes for our people and lands.
- My family has culturally and financially relied on the Gulf of Alaska king salmon for generations. An ESA listing is a blunt, one-size-fits-all instrument that often has no real benefit for the species and, in this case, would inflict significant harm on Alaskans and our economy.
- I'm urging the agency to consult with as many Alaskans as possible-those who have the most at stake, like the Alaska Native people whose traditional knowledge of salmon is unsurpassed, and also the expert scientists at the Alaska Department of Fish & Game who have a more extensive understanding of Alaska's salmon and marine ecosystems than federal officials. Another good place to start would be the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force, established by my 2022 legislation, which has convened the best minds-tribal, university, federal, state and local leaders-to get answers on the cause of the extreme and, in some places, devastating variability in salmon returns across the state.
- My name is Raymond Douville. I am a commercial fisherman and a life long Alaskan. I grew up commercial fishing on my dad's salmon troller and have owned and operated my own salmon troller for the past 17 years. My family relies on gulf of Alaska king salmon to make a living and for food.

- My family runs a troller that relies on king salmon financially. I am a 4th generation commercial fisherman, purse seiner. I own the boat my grandfather had built. As a daughter of a commercial fisherman my livelihood has always intertwined with wild salmon survival. I care deeply about their conservation and longevity. I do not support placing this species on the endangered list. I support limiting trawler bi-catch of king salmon. As a seiner we are able to place almost all of the king salmon we catch back into the water, with a high survival rate. If this species enters that list my fishing opportunities will greatly diminish, so many communities would be negatively impacted. Alternatively consider setting in place a lot stricter rules and regulations towards trawlers and bottom draggers who are wasteful and destructive of a multitude of resources and species. Thank you.
- I am a lifelong resident of Sitka Alaska and a subsistence, sport and commercial fisherman. I started fishing commercially with my family at age 6 and continue to fish with my brother. It is a way of life that I cherish and keeping the ecosystem healthy and harvesting sustainably was something we were brought up to understand. As a winter king troll deckhand out of Sitka I rely on the fishery and am on the water most every day during that season. I am an amateur naturalist, and I use my time on the ocean to make observations including taking plankton samples and obtaining samples that are being used by scientists. We are and have always been active helping research in any way we can, we are advocates for a healthy ecosystem and sustainable fisheries, something I feel some organizations are failing to acknowledge.
- I am a member of Tlingit & Haida, and I fully support their position both past and present in regard to the Wild Fish Conservancy's stance on chinook salmon in Alaska and their opposition to NOAA's decision to consider the Wild Fish Conservancy's petition to list Gulf of Alaska (GOA) king salmon as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NOAA and other entities need to focus on AK trawl bycatch and habitat destruction instead of repeatedly pushing it to the side which is what has been happening for way too many years.
- Traditional food security is integral to our culture and way of life. King salmon are a cultural keystone species that we rely on both in rural and urban areas where food security is a challenge. We know how to manage our lands and waters without taking too much or too early. By putting king salmon on the endangered species list not only would a key component of our way of life be endangered, but so would our overall well-being. Commercial trawlers should be the priority when it comes to government regulating; not a blanket regulation that would keep tribal citizens from practicing key survival skills that grocery stores, which are few and far between in rural areas and exorbitantly priced will never replace. This would mean further food insecurity and worsening health outcomes for our people and lands.
- My family and I have fished, consumed, cherished, and appreciated King Salmon and all seafood options throughout our lives. The history of my family's interaction and use of Salmon to feed ourselves and for historical work to support our families has been a constant since before the 1900s in Southeast Alaska. As an Alaskan Native with family that spans the state, Salmon has always been a main source of protein and food for us. I grew up eating it and it provides optimal protein, ocean-based vitamins and minerals that are not easy to reproduce. Without Salmon and other ocean seafood, I would not feel well, have enough protein energy to participate in life in the best way possible. Salmon is my go-to for a protein source that provides everything I need for natural nourishment. If these beautiful animals are to be restricted, my family and I, as well as many others would suffer from a lack of nutrition, historical work, and such important ingredients that bring life to our bodies, souls and spirits.
- I agree with conservation, but it doesn't have to be implemented the way that outsiders, legal representation from other states or outside groups, want to implement it. The tribes that have cared for

the fish, earth, and animals for a very long time should be consulted and be requested to prepare a plan to conserve, increase production of new King Salmon, reduce the issues that are causing the situation, and be allowed to collaborate with enforcement agencies when people our businesses are wasting our natural resources. The outsiders don't appear to care about our way of life, nor the actual reason why our King Salmon are having issues, or they would be advocating for those activities to stop!"

- Way of life for our family. Trolling has built all of our houses and pays the bills. If you take away king salmon the profits it could take away from one's season about 75% of the income is relied on the king salmon season.
- I go home to Yakutat every year to put up fish for winter. It saves so much money for our family every year. I grew up being able to eat all the seafood I ever wanted, but as I get older, some of the foods we always had access to are hard to come by. Bycatch is mass murder. They shouldn't pour the dead fish back but pack it up to give to native communities so they can still be of use instead of wasted. Either give it to elders, the disabled, or even giving/donating it to senior centers would be better. But feel if we put a me of our main sources of food on the endangered species list, they should put Alaska natives on there to. Without food we cannot survive. For many, fish is our main food source. It's our poor man's food as we can't always afford to go to the stores. Without it, many Alaska natives will starve. A lot of Tribal citizens rely on Salmon to survive throughout the winter and summer. It is the mainstay of their diet and also offsets the cost of groceries. Provides many with health benefits also.
- I rely on our salmon for food throughout the entire year. If the state, consider using our ways of protecting the salmon it would not be an issue today.
- I grew up in a commercial and subsistence fishing family where our cultural and economic livelihoods depend on a balanced relationship with our natural surroundings including the ocean's resources. We take what we need and we process and think about the future to store our harvests to enjoy year round till next season. Our people have depended on salmon since time immemorial.
- I need king salmon to help supplement poor sockeye run. Takes some pressure off of sockeye for smoking. Without king we'd have to put more pressure on sockeye and sockeye is hard to get anyway.
- How can Chinook in Alaska be endangered and chinook in California, Oregon and Washington not be they are all the same species, Alaska chinooks aren't a different species from other chinook
- As a member of the Tlingit community, king salmon has always been an integral part of our culture. We have been here since time immemorial, our tribe should be the stewards of the land, and that includes hunting and fishing.
- We are all connected to the land and sea.
   Our way of life depends on our salmon!
- King Salmon has been a part of my diet since I was born, I can't think Of time when I haven't eaten or served King Salmon at some point during my life.
- Husband is a fisherman.

- My family, relatives and friends rely on salmon for subsistence. We cannot and will not be forced to utilize farmed salmon for our traditional use. Putting this salmon on the endangered species list will irreparably harm us. My father JK Samuel fought for these rights.
- We here in Kake rely heavily on king salmon it's our cultural and traditional food. The F&G already closes king salmon March 15 to April 15, putting the wild king salmon on the endangered list will put more hardship on our community Culturally.
- King salmon is part of our way of life. We need our salmon putting King Salmon on the endangered species list does not correct the actions of the commercial trawlers killing this population as well as other fish species. We need to address the upstream issue that is destroying our oceans vs stating that the population is going extinct.
- The people of Yakutat have lived respectfully with the king salmon for the better half of a millennia. These salmon play a vital role in our culture, and to try and ""protect"" them through inconsiderate and hasty litigation would not only devastate our Native people economically, but culturally. Additionally, the most harmful causes of salmon decline must be addressed directly as threats to other species and nature as a whole. Tribal voices are necessary to reach optimal outcomes for both the king salmon and the people who have cared for them since time immemorial.
- We know these fish
  We know our waters
  We know the costs
  We must be heard
- Harvesting king salmon is as synonymous to Tlingit culture as smoked fish and dancing. The great king salmon is a staple in most family's homes and removing it from our plates would take away some people's only choice for nourishment.
- King salmon have long provided for my Yakutat Tlingit people as a staple food source and a rich source of oils for our health. Because they are large and oily, they are a staple food source of my family and are prepared many ways to enjoy fresh, as well as sustain us through the winter. "Putting up" salmon is a cultural tradition and we can only pass down to the younger generations this key piece of our heritage by teaching hands-on the different methods of cutting, brining, smoking, drying, jarring and freezing all parts of the fish.
- Southeast Alaska, I enjoy catching, filleting, smoking and jarring king salmon for subsistence home use for me and my family.
- My family does and it effects them if they take away their rights to fish for king salmon. "Lingít haa sitee axch awé! Haa Kusteeyí Yéi yatée.
- We ARE Stewards of the Land and this our 'Way of Life' in Lingít Aaní.
- The current fisheries management is corrupt, outdated, and in need of reorganizing. Our fisheries were once massive sources of marine diversity. Our current management efforts are not sustainable.
- TAKE BACK OUR OCEANS!

- As an Alaska Native and a resident of Washington State, Gul of Alaska king salmon represents a significant connection to my ancestral roots. As a person who is not personally a fisher, I purchase the fish from those who do fish for it.
- We grew up being able to Eat King salmon. Please consider not allowing foreign countries to Over fish the sea.
- As an Indigenous person local to the land, I rely on Gulf of Alaska king salmon culturally and financially. Salmon is one on of my main food sources and King Salmon is the most highly prized. Living in a small rural community, the cost of protein from the grocery store is too high to be sustainable. I rely solely on subsistence harvest for my protein intake. If king salmon are listed as an endangered species, it will affect subsistence harvesters but king salmon species will continue decline anyways due to the overfishing in the trawling industry. Please fight the real issue: Commercial Trawling
- Fished salmon my entire life.
   It's our way of life, eating king salmon.
- King Salmon isn't just food. It's a form of subsistence for our people. It's something that we, as a people, live and thrive off of. Our way of life should not be threatened at the fault of people who don't care about our land or the foods that we rely on to keep our traditions alive.
- Salmon fishing and cooking for myself and my family is more than just a meal. It's a tradition that that has been passed down through our family. It carries memories of our gatherings, celebrations, and provides a reminder of home, cherished memories, and cultural connection.
- Subsistence food.
- I like catching Kings and providing them to my family.
- Klawock Heenya Corporation has 1,200 shareholders; many rely on Gulf of Alaska King Salmon to survive the long winter months. Having King Salmon in our households during the winter months is our culture and way of life!
- I've grown up in subsistence living. King Salmon has been a part of our nutrition and has always been a delicacy. It is treasured meal that can be prepped in multiple ways to sustain us through the year. Not only has it been a party if our nutrition and diet but does financially sustain many families. I am in agreement with Tlingit & Haida
- Being a tribal member that relies on traditions to culturally center myself is of utmost importance. King salmon are very important to my cultural identity.
- Before listing the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), or any evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) that may exist in the petitioned area, as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there must be a comprehensive investigation of the economic impact to Alaska native communities that rely on this species:

Angoon.

Bellingham.

Gustavus.

Haines.

Hoonah.

Juneau.

Kake.

Ketchikan.

Furthermore, the social justice impacts of listing this species must be assessed and should consider the sovereignty of the local tribes (Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian).

Additionally, biological studies that take a hard look at the contribution of commercial trawling industries and climate change must be completed.

I stand with Tlingit & Haida and I believe that this will have a strong negative impact on the community- culturally, financially, physical and mental wellness. We depend on this throughout the year.

- My father, brothers and uncles all are commercial fisherman and rely on King Salmon financially as well as all of us rely on it culturally. The Native people who reside and non-residents who commercial fish in Alaska should be exempt from this ruling.

  We should have the rights to fish period. Salmon is a part of native culture and has provided
  - We should have the rights to fish period. Salmon is a part of native culture and has provided nourishment to many indigenous people for centuries before the United States became a country.
- Me and my family both rely on king salmon culturally and financially. My family fishes in the summer
  for kings to sell and we use it to stock our freezer for the winter. We need it in order to survive our
  outrageous store prices and cost of living here.
- My family depends on GOA king salmon as part of our culture. We have been and still are excellent stewards of this Earth. Because other cultures do not respect the resources, we are the ones subjected to censorship/restrictions/limitations, curtailing our way of life. Native peoples of this country have always been subjected to white man/European culture, rules, regulations, as if we don't have a clue about how to harvest these resources, and have been treated as less than second-class citizens: "This is for your own good". It is not the Native peoples causing this diminishing of king salmon. Redirect your efforts to the causes of the problem, instead of projecting your "superiority" attitude onto the Native peoples. The commercial trawlers have been overharvesting the fish stocks in the interest of capital gain, instead of considering maintaining fish stocks. I would suggest start limiting the number of commercial trawlers fishing in Alaskan waters, and limiting their openings to protect the GOA king salmon species. Already, the Hoonah people cannot fish in their own waters for king salmon because "Special Interest Groups" think they know what's best.
- I grew up in the fishing village of Pelican, Alaska and come from a family of fishermen. Our family has subsisted off fish our whole lives. I now live in Yakutat and we regularly fish on the ocean and in the River. The King Salmon is best managed fishery there is. The problem is the Trawlers who hurt the bottom of the ocean floor and kill all the other species of animals while they fish their fishery. The Trawlers need to be beter managed. Please don't take our fish from our livelihood. It is our way of life.
- A required food source for well being!
- It is beyond my comprehension culturally, financially, economically and personally. How it is our king salmon have become not only restricted but limited in certain areas.
- I do not see Trawlers being regulated or approached with this same treatment. I have pictures of their abuse of wasting our king salmon, halibut and sockeye in a very messy environment they're not being held responsible for.

• At this time more than any other level I want and feel the need to focus on our culturally relevant and value systems. First, never in our culture would you hear use of the word ""restricted or limited use"". Not possible, because our main terms of use are taught from an early age to only take what we need. Not to over harvest or use as a feeding operation for small frye.

Secondly, this has not happened in the history our culture/s since my early years, and I am nearly retired. The reason it would never happen in our value system of taking only what we need our fisherman work hard to honor our values based on their ability/ies to share the economic base with our community/ies. Additionally, these same number of fishermen and women, doesn't even compare to our knowledge and awareness of the Trawlers who waste their farmed products that are poisoning our ocean beds with chemicals in their farming methods that poison and directly destroy the salmon harvest and return cycles. But make it impossible for our tribal citizens to maintain our culturally instilled values by not having the full magnitude to complete our harvesting cycles enough to feed our tribal citizens as in times long passed. These same value systems promote our artforms with landmarks that can be found since time immemorial of 'Lingit and Haida people. As a tribal artist it's almost as if our value systems are attempting to re-create themselves based on re defining who we are by dictations of adf and g. Instead of the very people who live and structure these values based on need within our families and villages. Not numbers and greed and money.

Use our tribal citizen membership to harvest our food sovereignty so we can have the security of forecasting a decent winter without having to be on guard of new or used regulations to limit and prohibit our use. If the trawlers were not so promoted and encouraged to continue wasting bycatch, our cultural use would not be threatened or dictated at this time. And the state would not have to monitor those dictations which is quite frankly appearing as socialism. Tell me it isn't or how it is not and I will leave this issue alone.

Lastly, in closing it is highly embarrassing to see how trawlers are allowed to use our Killer whales as part of their farming operations. To them it is satirrical, to me it is encroaching on the Great Spirit above of which there are consequences mankind will suffer. I had to include the Orca because they're a natural part of our eco system, who manifest the feeding grounds of our king salmon.

The more people take and demand out of greed, the less sustainability our true Alaskan harvesting values can predict for the returns. We can do that as Indigenous people. We do not believe in farming fake salmon made from poisons and carcinogens. We do not waste based on greed and poaching. Plain and simple if the responsibility were returned to the First People's of our great state there would be no need for regulation.

- My family has relied on King salmon and fishing to put food on the table and my dad was a commercial fisherman for many years as I grew up. King salmon and fishing is a part of my heritage, culture and a necessity for healthy living.
- King salmon have been a staple in the diets and sustainability of the Tlingit people in Kake Alaska since long before I was born in 1981. We fish and hunt and live off our land and eat what we catch.
- Our family and clan members rely on the king salmon for nutrients and harvesting, but also as a means to pass on how to harvest king salmon respectfully to the next generation.
- Culturally, my family has lived off of Salmon since the 1900's.
- Members of my family fish in Alaska every year. We live off of the catches throughout the year. Putting restrictions of anything kind on our ability to legally fish would be detrimental to our families. We need to figure out ways to continue to allow native people to fish while conservorship is our duty and our way of life.

- I just fished in Kasilof a few days ago. I was proud to provide fish for my Tribal Picnic and to our citizens. I wish we were able to get Kings. That was closed. Subsistence is our way of life. Our right. Our tradition. And how we teach our children. Since time immemorial.
- Salmon, king salmon are an important part of our culture. We rely on it to live. White men continue to try to take this away from us. The Alaska State Constitution says that Indigenous people are supposed to get their share of subsistence first. They are violating their own constitution.
- I've had enough of elitist persons from outside of Alaska trying to take our resources away! Enough! Deawe'!! \*\*
- My family puts up salmon every summer for consumption during the long winter months. We also smoke and jar fish for family and cultural events. Losing the ability to harvest salmon negatively affects our ability to practice our way of life as Lingít people.
- Traditional foods are a way of life and are so meaningful in our culture, it's how we share who we are. It's our livelihood, our food source, our connection to each other and the land. Any disruption to this lifeline will be devastating.
- The year I finally get funds to take family home to do some fishing, kings are all but shut down. I didn't realize how bad it has gotten. When I was younger fish were abundant. There were good years and ""bad"" years but bad was still better than now.
- Herring used to take. 5min to catch quota for commercial. Now boats fishing together for days.
- Instead of listing king as endangered, why not stop herring for few years and give our fish something to eat. No feed equals small fish or dead fish.
- Stop factory trawlers from scraping up everything and chucking back "bycatch" so they don't get caught with it on board.
- I do not rely on Alaska king salmon since I do not reside in Alaska, but I wholeheartedly support all of my fellow tribal citizens who do rely on king salmon as a main food source.
- I grew up in Alaska fishing for king salmon with my mother and father, every year I travel back with my two sons so they can fish with their grandparents.
- Traditional foods are a way of life and are so meaningful in our culture, it's how we share who we are. It's our livelihood, our food source, our connection to each other and the land. Any disruption to this lifeline will be devastating.
- My family does rely on king salmon culturally and financially.
- I rely on Gulf of Alaska King salmon for subsistence to feed my family.
- We fish for subsistence

- King Salmon fishing is an essential part of maintaining my connection to my tribal heritage.
- It's time for all tribal members and leaders to stand and fight for our king salmon fisheries. Our resources have been depleted for to long, the way I see it it's an attempt to do controlled genocide
- We catch king salmon in the southeast seine fishery and any restrictions from Gulf of Alaska. Over fishing of king salmon impacts us substantially financially.
- I am a commercial power troller whose livelihood depends upon fishing for King Salmon. Yes, my family does rely on king salmon culturally, and financially.
- King salmon have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. As a Tlingit, this fish provides a connection between me and my ancestors. Taking away the opportunity to fish for king salmon is more than taking away food-it's taking a way of life.
- King salmon is important culinary and commercially to me. The WFC is a sportfish backed group going for a species grab for lower states sportsmen. They don't stop fishing but want others to.
- I have come from a long line of fishing commercially and traditional I've fished In Bristol Bay, Southeast AK, I've shrimped, Halibut, geoduck, seined and many hours hand trolling and sport fishing so I can help feed, myself, my family and some of my elders that couldn't fish anymore I feel that our people should never be told that they can't fish a certain species cause the stocks are to low and were trying to rebuild the stock! Well you have to ask yourself why are they low and what does that have to do with our people, sure you shut it down years too late while tourist come to our state and wreak havoc on all our fish species it's crazy I've worked at Alaska Airlines every summer the planes are full of fish boxes and that was early 2000s it was out of control then!
- We need some protection of our cultural traditions and rights! The state of Hawaii got their sovereignty and great fishing rights for their people.
   We need our fishing rights for our people it's our right and our tradition!
- As a lifelong Alaskan and Tlingit woman, I rely on King salmon culturally for food. I've been eating it for 62 years. Listing it as an endangered species will very likely result in subsistence and commercial trolling uses being further restricted or eliminated. The real and most glaringly devastating impact to our King salmon population is trawler bycatch. Another wasteful practice is King salmon charter fishing. I would venture that much of those thousands of fish boxes headed south on Alaska Airlines end up freezer burned in a landfill. Please quit employing political solutions on a scientific problem.
- It is time to start looking at all the predators. Whales. Sea lions. Seals. Humpback whales target the juvenile fry salmon.
- I grew up fishing for King salmon in Wrangell, Ak. My father fished for King's as well as my Uncle and cousins. Some commercially mostly for subsistence. These fish are a part of our circle of life and no one should ever be allowed to take that away.
- King Salmon is our main staple. For centuries. It provides vital nutrients to our body. Finances to our village. You take away the salmon then your taking away our lively hood. Our way of live. It's our main staple. You'd destroy Alaska in every sense of the word. Do not fix what isn't broken. Let us live the way

we have been for thousands of years. Besides farm fish is in the waters. Why are they not extinct? Let us live like we have been for years!!!

- My family live in Alaska and depend on salmon to eat and share all year long. They freeze, can, and dry the salmon to have in months when they can't fish. because of weather.
- To the Tlingit Indians of Southeast Alaska, salmon was more than just a major food item. It also plays an important part in our beliefs, customs, artwork, and legends. Just because the people who are running this country NOW they are also are responsible for destroying it, they have lost respect for it, Tlingit people have not.
- Salmon is my way of life in consumption and livelihood.
- It is our way.
- Alaskan King salmon is culturally a big part within my family. We have depended on it for food, for
  many years. I believe that putting king salmon on endangered list would hinder many both financially
  and culturally. As well it would take food resources away from many that depend on it throughout the
  years to come.
- Huna Tlingit of Glacier Bay National Park has been 1996 banned from commercial fishing in state of
  AK waters of Glacier Bay because of a group conservation fishing group such as the one suing over S.E.
  Alaska's wild stock. That robbed Hoonah of a valuable and ancient economy to the advantage of the
  state of AK and the cruise line industry whose mega ships enter GBNP polluting air and water as
  glacial melt is rampant.
- I need salmon for my health. I eat it every week. It helps me be healthy and feel better. My "people" have been relying on salmon from our local waters for many many years.
- My family's main source of food is subsistence fish and game. We have been eating King Salmon since time and memorial, sustainably, and without waste. I also spent most of my life commercial fishing with my father, a lifelong commercial fisherman and advocate for the fishing industry. He's spent years on fish and game advisory boards and other such volunteer work. When the regulations changed locally on king salmon subsistence fishing in the bay, he testified in Anchorage and got fish and game to remove the restrictions because he was able to show them the data and make the argument that supported a king population in the area that was healthy, not waning. My husband is a lifelong commercial and subsistence fisherman. He and many f us like him have watched and studied the patterns and populations of King and other salmon for years, and we do not think that moving the species in Gulf of Alaska to the Endangered Species Act is appropriate for this area. This is instead a political push by a misguided organization interested in protecting killer whales but they do not understand the disconnect between their goals and the data/truth of the matter. This move would be harmful to so many that rely on King Salmon both culturally and financially in Southeast Alaska. I understand that the worlds resources are becoming more scarce, and the world is overpopulated. NOAA needs to move on the trawling industry and protect the King Salmon that are unable to make it past the trawling fleet to the yukon. Genocide is happening with NOAA's blessing, by starving the people that live alongside this river, permanently destroying ocean floor and fish/crab habitat/populations. Focus on them, not on the Gulf of Alaska and their King Salmon.

- My father was a hand troller King Salmon was our life. Please do not declare King Salmon endangered. It will destroy the Southeast Alaskan economy.
- Fish have been a fixture of our culture and art for generations they also play a crucial role in maintaining the health of our waters which is crucial to our survival.
- King salmon has been a critical part of our cultural heritage for many centuries its a staple food.
- King salmon has always been a part of our way of life. Not only as our food but as a way to provide a living. It has been an integral part of our cultural heritage. At our Koo.eex it has been one of foods that the hosts provide to their guests. One of the meals served is our traditional food, which includes king salmon. Another meal that is served is the favorite food of the lost loved one we are honoring & that often includes king salmon. Our ancestors knew how to manage the foods that our Creator gave us dominion over. It would be awesome if others would look to indigenous peoples for wisdom & guidance.
- I rely on salmon to feed my family and doing without salmon has had a financial impact as we have had to spend countless amounts of money at grocery stores on other forms of protein for our family.
- Food for my family/ villagers... Been always a way of life for our Tlingit people.
- King Salmon and all Salmon Species are a valuable resource to all Alaskans in Southeast Alaska. King Salmon is a large part of our diet (Our Way of Life) and many residents will be impacted by this Act of Nonsense. Alaska has been tasking restoring the King Salmon thru Hatcheries and Clean Rivers. To properly manage this resource, start by only allowing Local Charter Businesses allowed in Alaska Waters. Say no to out of State Charter Businesses.
- King salmon is the way of our people. With the high cost of food, and all the additives in food, my household depends more and more on the food provided from the sea.
- Alaskan King salmon are a right to everyone in my tribe not only do we rely on king salmon for food but also our culture is very important.
- This would impact and harm Tlingit and Haida, the tribe, my culture and future Tlingit and Haida members in the future.
- King salmon is my favorite fish to smoke and jar for the winter and share with family and Elders. I pride myself on the king salmon that I put up. We also love to make dry fish and this has been done in our family for generations.
- I rely on Gulf of Alaska King salmon for subsistence to feed my family.
- It's time for all tribal members and leaders to stand and fight for our king salmon fisheries. Our resources have been depleted for too long, the way I see it it's an attempt to do controlled genocide
- Cultural Foods which includes King Salmon for Indigenous FIRST People:

- Cultural Symbolism: King salmon are a common theme in Native American art and literature. They symbolize the cycle of life, death, and rebirth, and are often featured in stories, totem poles, tattoos, and carvings.
- Subsistence and Tradition: For many Alaska Native families, king salmon have been a vital food source for generations. The fish are traditionally caught, preserved, and shared within communities, playing a crucial role in subsistence living.
- Economic and Social Impact: King salmon are not only important for subsistence but also for the local economy. They are a key species for commercial and recreational fishing, contributing significantly to the livelihoods of many Alaskans.
- Environmental and Ecological Role: King salmon are integral to the ecosystem, serving as a primary food source for various wildlife, including orcas.
- I recently had the opportunity to take my 2 yr old to Auke Bay and fish for salmon like my parents had taken me before. I pray to the Creator his children will experience the reverence in such a traditional experience we Alaska Natives maintain.
- The king salmon is a sacred part of our diet. We use the entire fish for sustenance and medicine food. We need the bones and fins for broth, the heads and eggs for soup. The meat of the king salmon is part of our traditional subsistence lifestyle.
- The fish I receive from my family keeps me connected to home. When I was diagnosed with cancer and going through my initial chemo I couldn't eat much I was able to eat the salmon, and it gave me the nourishment I needed to fight. I still rely on it today. Gunalcheesh!
- I am a Alaskan Tribal Native from Kasaan. I depend on king salmon culturally, for food and financially being a commercial hand troller permit holder. It's part of our blood and who we are.
- I'm supporting as an Indigenous tribal member of the Navajo Nation, as a mother of four and as an Indigenous Peoples Rights Advocate.
- It's our right as Indigenous First Nations Peoples to have Tribal Sovereignty of access to ancestral lands and waters that support our cultures, traditions and our way of living.
- And it's been a historical practice to have the right to Food sovereignty and protections to fish and wildlife habitats.
- Sustaining these Rights will also benefit the health and well-being of the environment beyond Tribal communities.
- Our children are counting on our leadership to protect their future and their ancestral rights to stewardship of ancestral lands and water conversations.
- Please ensure the rights of Tribal communities and children's health.
- It's our way of live and our traditions for our people

- I don't necessarily rely on salmon financially. But a lot of the people I know in the villages do rely on salmon heavily. Some of them were saying they were not able to catch as many fish as they've been hoping for, for years. Salmon have been what Haida people have been eating forever and it means a lot to eat the traditional dishes that I've grown up with.
- My family has always relied on Alaskan King salmon culturally and some financially.
- I have been fishing the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea, worked on a small trawler for about 8 years and been longlining Cod for the last 14 years. Salmon Seiners, Gillnetters actually do more then any trawler I've worked on! But all trawlers have observers on them to report catches. But I know first-hand what happens on those boats. But that's not the whole problem, there's way more... our ecosystem if really messed up now. And hatcheries pumping out Pinks doesn't help anything, not even commercial fisherman. All the squid, Herring, sardine, anchovy, all these bait Fisheries, combine all that for years, fish don't survive. And Krill boats are doing a lot to, they take large amounts of Krill that bait fish feed on, and In turn it affects the salmon.
- Culturally I rely on Alaska king salmon. Every summer I look forward to fishing with my grandparents and enjoying what we catch for the rest of the year.
- Regulate commercial fishing not tribal sustainability.
- This fish has deep cultural meaning to myself and my family.
- I am Tlingit from Kake, AK but currently live in Yakima, WA. I was a fisherman in AK & in WA. My father, uncles, and grandparents (and many more relatives) were also fisherman in AK. It is part of my heritage and I believe we need heard because this who I am. My relatives still depend on the fish each season to survive. Please do not ignore us and what we have to say. We have been fishing those waters for thousands of years. We have a voice and must be heard
- Our salmon provide our families with food and nutrition that we were raised eating for generations. With economic rural areas it's a staple and helps us to survive.
- I am Tlingit. King salmon provides food for my family. We prepare the salmon so that it can be preserved to last throughout the year.
- My family and I rely on Gulf of Alaska King Salmon culturally, financially and in a sustainable and respectful way. We care for the land and waters and only take what we need and never waste anything. This is how we were raised and how we will continue to raise our children. This is the only way.
- This is a major source of aboriginal self-sufficiency for my tribe and culture. The historical aquatic resources are ours.
- My cousin and his family rely on fishing for their livelihood.
- AK King salmon is our way of life; culturally and through subsistence it has connected us to our people
  and traditions for many generations. We highly depend on them to continue feeding us physically and
  spiritually.
- I am a lifelong resident of Klawock Alaska, king salmon is the single most important resource we have, from providing food for my family to giving me an opportunity to run my charter fishing business. Stop

trawling if you want to protect the ocean. It's not rocket science. They're money covers for them but everyone knows if you stop trawling we will be ok, and numbers will recover. That fishery is not sustainable, is not regulated, and they get away with whatever they want. Hell they have allotments for incidental killing of whales. If trawling does not stop many of us Alaskans will lose our culture and way of life. Stop attacking the little guy. Focus on the trawl fleet

- It's ignorant to think that King Salmon from one region or another doesn't have some effect on the rest of the population, fish or human.
- For me and generations way before me, have survived on our salmon, it's a staple, it's our way of life, it's who we are.
- I stand with Tlingit & Haida in opposition of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) determination to further consider the Wild Fish Conservancy's petition to list Gulf of Alaska (GOA) king salmon as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Our family relies heavily on not only the King fishery but all salmon fisheries in Alaska.
- The land, waters, and resources belong to NATIVE ALASKANS. Since time immemorial, our people have lived on salmon as our main food source. Outside "groups" do not have a say in what NATIVE ALASKANS" eat. Villages do not have the same means to travel to grocery stores. Our rights are protected as FIRST CITIZENS OF ALASKA long before it became a "state".
- Many of my family members subsistence fish for king salmon. They share with much of the family. Salmon has been a staple for my people for as long as our tribes history. My clan crest is a salmon.
- I subsistence salmon, fish, and proxy fish for elders in my community as well as operate a hand troll salmon boat
- I live in Southeast Alaska, king salmon migrate through our region to Bristol Bay. We do depend on Bristol Bay salmon.
- King salmon is one of species of salmon that makes up a large portion of our food source. King salmon adds a healthy source of food to our diet. It also uses a knowledge of where, when, and how to catch salmon. It adds a form of exercise to our subsistence lifestyle.
- Our traditional foods and way of life depend on our king salmon.
- Alaska King Salmon is a major part of our culture and food source.
- I rely and prefer king salmon over any other meat other than deer and moose.
- Native Alaskans rely on King salmon for survival and for their culture. They should always have priority over commercial fishing or non-natives. Native Alaskans rely on King salmon for survival and for their culture. They should always have priority over commercial fishing or non-natives.
- My family and I rely on Gulf of Alaska king Salmon culturally. We trade for King Salmon so we can smoke it or grill it.

- My name is Yvonne K Phillips. I am Tlingit and grew up in Juneau, Alaska. My family has been fishing in Southeast Alaska for generations and relies on fishing as a source of food. Prohibiting families from fishing these waters would devastate our Tlingit & Haida culture!
- Please work on limiting the real culprit that is diminishing the King Salmon numbers in Alaskan waters. Change your focus to the real causes for the reduction in the King Salmon supply.
- Have the courage and find the ability to fight the real causes for these diminishing numbers of a truly valued resource to our Tlingit & Haida people!"
- In the upper Lynn Canal/Fjord and the Chilkat River it is and has been our way of life. It is part of the reason my ancestors settled here hundreds of years ago. We need our Chilkat Kings to show their presence in our river once again. Stop the Trawlers NOT our subsistence rights.
- I live in Wisconsin, and while I don't personally rely on GOA King salmon, my tribe (Tlingit) certainly does. My mother and her sisters were born and raised in Petersburg and Ketchikan during the 20's & 30's, during a terribly difficult time for Alaskan Indians to survive. My grandmother and aunt worked in the cannery. Aunt Mabel would smoke the freshly caught salmon for the local fisherman throughout her life. I am proud of my heritage and stand with Tlingit & Haida in their efforts to oppose this unjust and offensive proposition.
- I am a past Troller and Seiner. I feel that it is soo wrong that we have aloud Trawlers to fish in our waters. What were we thinking. Dragging for anything at the bottom of the ocean will eventually kill all of our main things that we eat. Or take food from our whales and other animals in the ocean. We definitely need to stop it and rethink what we are doing to our ocean.
- My mother, Marion, born 1915 in Hydaburg would row the skiff while her Dad hand trolled for king salmon. It was only economic meaning left to them in 1930. Not much has changed, the people still rely on king salmon for food and money. To this day I still rely on king salmon as major food source., except now i am supplied by the food bank, elders center and other food sustainability programs. My business relies on Alaska king salmon to sell and smoke. It would threaten my business in Washington state to place them on an endangered list. I believe much of the depletion of all salmon is from the marine mammal protection act. Many seals and sea lions are threatening our rivers with over population and the salmon can't make it up stream to spawn.
- The origin of salmon as a species and the ecosystem that evolved in balance with the seasonal salmon cycle led to a stable environment that supported the devopment of complex indigenous cultures enriched by the socioeconomic abundance of salmon as not only a primary food source, but a representation of cultural identity, ideology and self-determination.
- I am very concerned for the families that rely on King Salmon in Alaska for subsistence. This protein is valuable in the diet of Alaskans. Grocery stores in Alaska are few and far between, that is why many rely on subsistence. It has been a way of life in Alaska for generations. Outsiders shouldn't push their agenda on Alaskans. By Catch laws need to be addressed. Find another way to save King Salmon stocks. It is important for all Alaskans.
- This is our food that we have eaten our whole lives.
- It's really important that we keep fish in for our use.

- I was born and raised in Alaska, lived there all but 9 years of my almost 5 decades of life. Being a displaced Tlingit woman, I find that "natural resources" have become a necessity for my family and I. Both physically for nourishment and mental wellbeing for our connections to our culture and community back home. They greatest gift friends and family bring, is our cultural foods!! It's not just a monetary gift, but one that cost beyond measure. It's gas, it's boat maintenance, it time fishing, cleaning, preparing and packing and storing. It is literally a labor of love. Not just "some fish"! We are a people of salmon, water... it's a part of who we are. I'll fight for our rights, I'm done bending over for colonialism!! It's time we Indigenize too!! For the health of all, especially Mother Earth!!
- Culturally, growing up in CA we don't have instant access to traditional foods or ways of living our family has to adapt. But when myself and son have opportunities for Alaskan salmon something sparks in our dna- generational connection take place and we feel connected in a way that is unexplainable. It brings me back to being a child seeing my grandfather's face light up when he saw we had salmon on the table. His eyes would light up and you could see a flood of memories in his face, he would share of the fishing he would do with his uncles and stories are shared over the meal. Now I can share these stories with my son.
- My family harvests king salmon' for subsistence. It's been our way of life as my grandfather Matthew Fred Sr would say, since Time and Memorial. Sheila Fred Mitchell
- King salmon has been a staple of my people that connects us to our traditions and way of life, without it we cried to exist and thrive.
- Salmon is a big part of my diet. My son and I have fish 3 days a week if not more. We do our subsistence harvesting, smoking, jarring or freezing and sharing with others. I grew up this way, raised my children on Salmon and now I want my grandchildren to do the same.
- Our culture has lived off the land for thousands of years and because of all the big commercial boats our supply has been limited, as well as our herring population which feeds the King salmon.
- King salmon in OUR waters is an integral part of the original peoples of this land's lives for Millenia, I am one of those people. The seasons are tracked by the foods we harvest in a traditional way and one of the most important is the King Salmon, this has happened for thousands of years and has profound cultural significance to us and our children, and to generations to come.
- The King Salmon is an important food source to my family, it has become scarce as a subsistence food. I believe that ALL harvesting of King Salmon should be halted immediately and only OUR people allowed to harvest for subsistence only. We did NOT have these problems when our people harvested for subsistence.
- Traditionally, king salmon have been a lifeline to the people of Wrangell. Located at the mouth of the Stikine River, our community marked summer by the arrival of the Chinooks. In recent years, the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game has restricted fishing for king salmon in our area during the run. It has severely impacted our economy and way of life. To see kings unavailable to citizens across Southeast Alaska would be detrimental to our region. Please focus your efforts on the commercial trawlers who waste tens of thousands of kings annually in by-catch.

- The Indigenous way of life has been stewards of the earth, wind, fire, and water. The many indigenous cultures have many teachings of a way of life that has demonstrated respect of the environment, and the living and non-living. The taking of animals means taking only what is needed. There is more to the Indigenous way of living than just what many hear and may not hear. A way of life that people should strive to live in harmony with the natural world and all that is contained in it. Thus, being stewards of the earth, wind, fire, and water. The living and non-living. The taking of "ONLY" what was needed to ensure that there would remain a supply and cycle of living of animals was a way of living that has been interrupted by attempts to "cut off from resources and traditions that are vital to the First Nation People's identity, wellbeing, and survival. Additionally, the First Nation's People know that water is the giver of life for all living beings. Because of the First Nation People's knowledge, understanding of ecomanagement, Indigenous people have and are able to make valuable contributions to the world in the belief the world is sacred and needs to be taken care of for future generations. A way of life with input that is valuable to all. Knowledge that has been passed from generation to generation.
- Alaska King salmon is our way of life. It's not just a dietary but cultural and spiritual for our Tlingit and Haida Tribal people. I grew up fishing with my parents in the Alaska Ocean, and we had a smokehouse; we used a pressure cooker to can and jar our Salmon for domestic and ceremony reasons. I now live in Mill Creek, WA, and because of economics, we don't have as much Salmon or seafood from our relatives as we used to.
- My family has commercially and subsistent fished for Alaska King Salmon for generations.
- Salmon is a big part of my diet. My son and I have fish 3 days a week if not more. We do our subsistence harvesting, smoking, jarring or freezing and sharing with others. I grew up this way, raised my children on Salmon and now I want my grandchildren to do the same.
- As an Alaska Native resident, I rely on all Alaska salmon to feed my family and our elders during the winter.
- King salmon is vital to our health and well-being.
- We are what we eat. Consuming food that has lived a free life as opposed to animals that are full of anxiety and stress I believe has an impact on our well-being. Also, there is the fact that the king salmon ancestors fed our ancestors connects us to the land and sea. We have had so much taken from us and our way of life around here at this point it feels criminal to try and take away the king salmon off of our tables. Hundreds of generations have learned to harvest the sea. To take that away is simply an assault on our way of life.
- I rely on king salmon as a source of healthy nutrition. I cannot imagine life without eating king salmon.
- I am a 4th generation commercial fisherman. I rely on king salmon mostly for subsistence reasons. Food for my family for the winter as well as for smoking.
- Salmon has enhanced our Tlingit lives since my Grandfather's time. He had two Seiners built for his Son's and I grew up fishing with my Father David Kitka. It fed family and friends in the village of Sitka and was shared during Memorial's and Potlatch's. It helps sustain our bodies and keeps us healthy. Thank you and please listen to this testimony
- Hello fellow humans and my peoples and my relations;

I for one ask noaa leave the salmon alone. Clearly noaa is comfortable operating from the view point of making money. How many Tlingits work at noa? Does it matter response:yes. I wish noa could monitor itself. But they need help. Why permit others to over fish? Why not say no? Lobbyists seem to have very busy on this issue. Be brave , request a quota be harvested. Allow our grand child know what is king salmon? Without hatchery life. Someone be brave for us all and our future. Thank you, Norma Wilson

- My family are commercial fisherman. This way of life is all we know.
- Subsistence and culturally.
- Our people the Haida have relied on the salmon for ten thousand years. The salmon represents more than just a food source. The salmon is represented in many of our myths, legends and our documented history.
- The salmon were not over fished until non-native entities started the mass harvesting of the King Salmon. Fish traps and other corporate fishing methods have made a bigger in recent history that the natives did in thousands of years.
- We rely on these king salmon to stock our freezers to feed our families. I also rely on the income from the commercial king salmon troll fisheries.
- I live in Kentucky and I rely on King Salmon shipped to Kentucky through internet purchase or Costco. It's the only way I can get quality salmon. Even that way, it's becoming quite difficult.
- We have always had access to wild caught salmon. Not having access would be a disgrace. I come from 4 Generation of seiner fishermen.
- My family has lived in Alaska back and forth over the years and heavily relied on king salmon. To not listen to Tlingit and Haidas pleas of the real issues impacting the salmon and at the very least add an opening for tribal communities to still have access to king salmon would be a disgrace.
- I am a member of the Tlingit tribe, and rely on Gulf of Alaska king salmon for subsistence fishing.
- I've fished king salmon commercially since I was 12! I've depended on it off and on over the years as a way to supplement my income and support my family. I have also used king salmon to diversify my diet and sustain me and my family during the long winters.
- I rely on my salmon culturally, financially, sustainably, and its a key stone species for our world (environment).
- Salmon is LIFE!
- We stand with our Alaskan Brothers and sisters and denounce the Wild Fish Conservancy and their continuous attacks on the Salmon People as they continue to promote and fund the slow genocide of tribal people who rely on salmon.
- We eat King Salmon.

- I rely on Gulf of Alaska king salmon as a source of food for myself and my family. I know many fishermen who rely on the sustainable king salmon troll fishery for their livelihoods. Adding king salmon to the ESA will disproportionately harm low-income and rural groups who rely on king salmon to feed their families, and Southeast Alaska's Native peoples who have important cultural relationships with king salmon that are exercised and passed on to future generations through fishing. These groups are also NOT most responsible for the decline in king salmon. This effort is a red herring so to speak that draws attention away from the real issues impacting salmon: trawl bycatch and worsening ocean conditions. If we truly care about protecting king salmon for future generations, we need to target our efforts there, not on broad-sweeping measures that will shut down small scale fishing. I speak not only as someone who relies on king salmon for food, but also as a graduate student in fisheries with specific education on these issues.
- Indigenous people deserve to fish. Nonnatives don't.
- Most of my family live and our tribal member of Ninilchick. King salmon is a large portion of sustainably for them. Without the salmon there will be no food for some of them.
- I honor native population's sovereignty and wisdom in the care of their sibling, king salmon. I will not condone paternalistic cont op of the salmon population, rather let the native community lead the path forward to sustainability.
- My family commercially trolls for king salmon based out of Sitka, Alaska. I was born and raised in Sitka. We rely on the boost of money that the king salmon fishery at the beginning of July provides for funding the rest of our fishing season, as well as filling our freezer. We eat salmon at least three times a week.
- Husband is a trolling Fisherman, and we also love to eat king salmon.
- I am a 70-year resident of Juneau Alaska and have been a commercial fisherman currently and most of my life. I fish for King salmon off and on all year long depending on weather and troll openings
- I have been a commercial salmon troller for over 30 years. Over 75% of my family's income comes from the harvest of king salmon. Our fishing industry is comprised of small, locally based boats. The troll industry contributes both economically and culturally to coastal communities throughout Southeast Alaska. The State of Alaska continues to work hard to maintain and rebuild King salmon stocks. The ESA listing will cause widespread devastation in coastal communities.
- My family commercially trolls for king salmon and depends on income from this fishery for our portion
  of our income. Trolling is a sustainable fishery with proper management and low impact with a small
  boat, hook and line fishery.
- I grew up in Alaska in a commercial fishing family. I have witnessed throughout my entire life the fact that the well being of our coastal communities is directly tired to the ability to harvest salmon. The listing of gulf king salmon as "endangered" will inevitably have unintended consequences, and the probability that it will threaten the harvest of other salmon species (for commercial and subsistence and otherwise) is very high. Our coastal communities rely on harvesting salmon, and commercially we have been doing it sustainably for decades. Without the harvesting of salmon, our local economies will collapse. Culturally, it has been done since time immemorial and removing that ability threatens food sovereignty for tribal members. The decision of whether or not and how we harvest a species should be

up to the biologists at the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game, not in the hands of an out of state environmental group with wealthy donors

- I live in Wrangell where our entire life revolves around salmon, especially king salmon. From commercial fishing, to sport fishing, to subsistence fishing, it is our way of life. Winter and summer kings are big for our commercial fishermen. It puts money in Wrangell's pockets and keeps families living here in rural Alaska where the cost of living and the economy is getting pretty tough. Not only do king salmon put money in Wrangell's pockets, it also puts food on our tables, fish in our smokehouses, and is an integral parts of our cultural activities. Even a simple community potluck is never complete without king salmon.
- I grew up in Alaska in a commercial fishing family. I have witnessed throughout my entire life the fact that the well being of our coastal communities is directly tired to the ability to harvest salmon. The listing of gulf king salmon as "endangered" will inevitably have unintended consequences, and the probability that it will threaten the harvest of other salmon species (for commercial and subsistence and otherwise) is very high. Our coastal communities rely on harvesting salmon, and commercially we have been doing it sustainably for decades. Without the harvesting of salmon, our local economies will collapse. Culturally, it has been done since time immemorial and removing that ability threatens food sovereignty for tribal members. The decision of whether or not and how we harvest a species should be up to the biologists at the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game, not in the hands of an out of state environmental group with wealthy donors
- My family relies on king salmon for subsistence.
- Being part of a family who runs a small charter lodge in Southeast Alaska we rely on the King salmon run to be able to run and provide for our family and crew. Without having a king season our business would stuffer and we would have to close down putting many employees out of jobs and many locals that we hire. I watched Washington get shut down by the wild fish conservancy and I won't let them shut down Alaska as they don't have up to date statistics and they don't fish and rely on king salmon to provide for their families!
- Subsistence for me but I know my community survives financially culturally and subsistence on king salmon.
- The king salmon is a major staple of my diet. Have it placed on this list will greatly change my way of life.
- My neighbor and best friend is Haida and I aware of what's going on and wanted to join her by signing on to this.
- I used to live in Alaska and depended on salmon financially through work, for my health as one of the only food sources available in remote areas, and for culture to bring a community together.
- Eliminating king salmon as a resource to our Alaskan communities eliminates a vital food source of both the people who harvest King Salmon (the most prized salmon due to its protein and fat content and size) and the people who receive king salmon from community members. Removing this food source, instead of taking action to eliminate the impact on local harvesting by larger corporate catch systems, will be detrimental to our children, elders, and those who rely heavily on subsistence for food.

- I work out of Southeast Alaska and rely on the king salmon fishery. This goes much deeper than just that though. The fish are a both a form of subsistence and a huge part of a culture of many Alaska indigenous people and residents. If they take the resources away of these will be lost.
- All Our Respect to King Salmon and Turtle Island
- I volunteer in Alaska and see the cultural impact of salmon.
- I am a small boat commercial fisherman and have been privileged to work with the central council on
  protecting Alaska salmon from trawl bycatch and protecting southeast Alaska salmon habitat. The wild
  fish conservancy's flawed petition is a misguided attack on coastal communities throughout the Gulf of
  Alaska.
- King Salmon harvested from the GOA have been an important part of our family's diet for over 50+ years. I have witnessed the decline of King Salmon stocks in Kodiak and southcentral Ak over that 50+ years of my life and times. Industrial trawling has been and continues to be one of the most significant factors affecting king salmon stocks. NPFMC is failing as a management agency. With less than 50% observer coverage in the GOA there continues to be an unacceptable amount of unreported and under reported by catch. I have spoken with former crew members of the Kodiak trawl fleet who stated that they unzipped and dumped entire trawl nets that were to full of bycatch. Their boss told them that those sets were test sets and that dumping them before bringing the net on deck was allowed and that did not need to be reported as bycatch since the net was not brought on deck. They also told me that the bosses of fleet all agreed that if one of them drew an observer they would only fish in less productive areas to minimize bycatch while the observer was on board. I ask them if they were willing to be whistle blowers. They stated that they feared retaliation against them and their families. This behavior has gone on for decades! Industrial trawling in the GOA must be stopped!
- Our family relies heavily on eating off the land on Prince of Whales Island. Not only is it a part of our culture and history, it's one thing that doesn't contain preservatives and all the other harmful additives. We're able to catch and process it ourselves. It also helps financially, because the grocery store prices here are completely outrageous. It would be taking away a main food source from our community.
- King salmon are weaved into our way of life and have been for thousands of years.
- My family and I are dependent on Alaska King salmon in many ways. First is our dependence as our favorite food for both our family and many, many families in our community of Sitka.
- My family has lived in Sitka, Alaska for over 30 years, king salmon has always been a part of our way
  of life. Many Alaskans, including my family, live in a rural community with a high cost of living and
  having King Salmon in our freezers is essential in order to counteract our high cost of living.
- In addition to being a sport and subsistence fisherman, I also own and operate a salmon fishing guide business. Without access to King Salmon, my business and countess other sport and commercial fishing operations would cease to exist, which would result in a loss of millions of dollars statewide and put hundreds of people out of work.
- I'm a commercial salmon troller living in Sitka Alaska. Commercial salmon trollers and subsistence fishermen in SE Alaska care deeply about the resource, because we rely on it, not just for angling kicks, year after year, to pay our bills and feed our families. We have a very long track record responsibly

managing the resource, alongside the state of Alaska. No one cares more deeply about the resource, and no one will ever work harder than we do to protect it. The WFC is extremely disingenuous.

- My mother went to boarding school and lost our native language and knew little about our culture. Her favorite memory was fish camp. When I was pregnant with my son I remember how much I wanted him to have a different experience than both my mother and I. So him and I are slowly attempting to learn our language (denaakk'e) but will he ever get to experience fish camp? We are extremely lucky to get our hands on salmon from Gal Doh aka Kaltag, which means 'The place where King Salmon is Harvested.' That hurts, however, there are many who rely on salmon for subsistence reasons. Allowing the salmon to be trawled, and harming their environment for financial gain knowing the hardships native people who live on their homelands already face- is very disheartening.
- All king salmon come from the sea, therefore I rely on the Gulf of Alaska king salmon to return up the rivers of their birth to spawn. While they're on their way, I catch a couple dozen to help me feed my family over the course of the winter. LIMIT the trawlers catch and STOP the wasteful bycatch!!
- I am a Sitka resident who relies on the king salmon fishery for my own freezer as well as my livelihood as a fishing guide.
- My family living is made King Salmon trolling. I rely on King Salmon as one of my main food sources. We all respect, protect and cherish our wild king Salmon!
- It a way of life. Then we should have all animals that we eat be put on endangered species list as well.
- I am an Alaska Native born and raised in Alaska. My family has culturally, financially and spiritualty lived on the natural resources of the entire State of Alaska for generations. The current generation of our family are commercial trollers that rely on the salmon species to remain and live in rural Alaska. The petition submitted by the Wild Fish Conservancy will adversely impact generations of Alaska Natives and our way of life. This negative impact will effective our traditional ways of life. The Conservancy needs to focus on large scale Trawling and subsequent bycatch which I feel is having the biggest negative impact on all ocean resources namely the Alaska King Salmon.
- King Salmon provide subsistence for family in Sitka, AK. This species sustains our families with nutrition needed throughout the year. It should be provided to tribal citizens and residents before being sold.
- As a marine conservation professional, I know that protection for this species is possible, but actions must be driven by a value system that centers the people and traditional knowledge that have successfully stewarded these species since time immemorial. Only then will it be possible to create meaningful, ethical, and effective long-term solutions.
- We are commercial fisherman from Southeast Alaska for the past 40 years. We rely on the king salmon for our livelihood and our way of living.
- Yes, I rely on Alaska king salmon. My friends and surrogate family in Hoonah, Angoon and Juneau rely on fishing salmon in order to care for their families and communities. It's culturally significant and provides a healthy protein source throughout the winter. It's an absolute staple for island communities and their way of life.

- This is our subsistence food, we rely on it for our families. We eat this food as our mainstay. It is part of our diet, we will not revert to packaged foods for our existence. We need the salmon and it is part of our culture to harvest this food for its richness and its preservation.
- The Gulf of Alaska King is one of the best sports fishing there is and provides a great way to supplement food in a place (SE Alaska) where meat and fish is very expensive in the supermarkets.
- Chinook salmon are a diverse and complicated species spanning a vast region. Within Southeast Alaska we have localized populations of resident fish, not migrating into the Gulf of Alaska, and more importantly, not migrating to WA state. They instead spend most, or all their life within the waters of our inside passages. These many different stocks follow many different trends. It is unreasonable to group them all together when hastily considering generalized sweeping regulations that would result in drastic side effects.

A one-year review period is too short of a time frame when recognizing:

- 1) The complexity of the issue.
- 2) The plethora of means and measures that could be put into action before jumping to such an extreme as listing this important resource on the Endangered Species Act.

Chinook salmon have been a cornerstone of traditional and subsistence harvest in Alaska for tens of thousands of years. To restrict the small communities from a resource they rely on is unethical. These people would again be bearing the burden of conservation and sacrifice for a situation they had little contribution to or control over. Additionally, Chinook salmon adds greatly to the economies of Alaska, and Southeast Alaska in particular. Be it the small artisanal Chinook salmon troll fishery that supports thousands of jobs directly and indirectly, or the sport guide and charter business built around Wild Alaskan Chinook Salmon. Many of these businesses are already struggling. It would be unjust to list Chinook under ESA without making good faith efforts into researching and implementing more moderate measures towards the conservation and repair of Chinook stocks. Salmon are resilient and quickly respond when given ideal circumstances. Meaning small measures today can have large effect. We have the benefit of seeing what has and has not worked with Chinook conservation in British Columbia and the West Coast states. Alaska has yet to implement several potential restrictions, regulations, or habitat enhancements that could aid to the health of Chinook. An ESA listing would ignore these options and instead remove Chinook from not just our smokehouses, but the focus and efforts of future conservation.

The recognition of TEK as valid legitimate data has brought new light into the management process. Please enter separate consultation with the Tribes of Alaska before making your determinations. Please allow ADF&G and local Fisheries Managers with first hand knowledge into the review process. Thank you,

Jackson Combs

Subsistence Fisheries Biologist for the Hoonah Indian Association and Commercial Salmon Power troll Fisherman

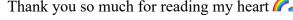
- I rely on them for the essential wildlife they are.
- Stop the trawling boats where the problem is happening!
- As a resident of Alaska specifically talking about Ketchikan. In our now days we are experimenting a terrible crisis already where our people don't have access to quality fish and natural resources due to many implementations with out asking the tribes members who had been the source of our dear city. Currently in my most humble opinion Ketchikan can be a pilot home to attach the problem from the roots. By implementing a total make over of the environment that surrounds the area where salmons come to hash.

Let's look from the roots not just the branches when a problem arise.

Our current situation is a situation where we need to implement new strategies because the old ones has been taking us in a place where we are now.

So please do not hurt more the hearts and culture of our communities let's be United and work towards the benefit of all with the balance of life.

Thank you so much for reading my heart A



- I am a seafood writer and former Bristol Bay gillnetter deckhand please listen to indigenous Alaskans.
- I come from a long line of commercial fishermen. Please reconsider this as it would be absolutely devastating to our way of life. Go after the TRAWLERS!
- I have been eating Alaska king salmon since I was a young child. It has been my favorite food for decades. Fishing for it brings me closer to my family, to myself, and to the land. It brings me joy and community and fills my belly when I am hungry. It brings down the cost of living in Alaska to get to eat delicious fish like king salmon when it is so expensive to buy meat at the store.
- Gulf of Alaska King Salmon conservation represents an opportunity to preserve a species that has been lost forever from other West Coast North America waters.
- There are many environmental influences that are effecting the chinook salmon that need to be addressed and eliminated before any listing of chinook on an endangered list. Trawling is one such industries and the overcrowded shipping lanes that pollute the waterways.
- I don't rely but I support the people who are relying and have for a long time!
- King Salmon are important to our way of life and are relied on culturally and financially for thousands in Southeast Alaska, especially the troll fleet, which is very small locally owned operations whom base their yearly income on King Salmon among others. If anything should be done, it should be STOPPING the trawling fleet from decimating the halibut and salmon stock, wastefully and unpenalized.
- My son is a fly fisherman and guide. He teaches non-Alaskans how to fish, relate to the water, appreciate the life cycle of salmon, and respect the life of the fish and all our relations. We are both highly educated about climate changes in Alaska. We share these with visitors so that they will understand how their choices impact our lives here.
- I rely on the Tribal Governments to keep people I love (from Juneau, to Kake, to Hoonah, alive, by making sure generations can sustain themselves respectfully.
- Pacific salmon of all types are an important part of my family's nutritional intake and cultural practices. We must always put the importance of accessible, healthy locally available foods ahead of other user groups including sport and commercial interests.
- Alaska King Salmon are a sustainable resource utilized for nutritional health for my family and community.
- I am a longtime commercial salmon troller. An ESA listing of GOA Chinook is scientifically unjustified based on the argument presented and cherry picked evidence provided in the WFC petition. Also, the WFC has a 14 year history of filing legal actions that are factually deficient and ultimately exploit under

represented and disadvantaged communities and interests to further the WFC agenda. Not to mention the results of past WFC successful legal actions that have not provided any of the results that the WFC claimed would happen. Past WFC actions HAVE hurt communities and have not had the promised results. Once again an arrogant and dishonest bad actor (the WFC) is taking advantage of our system to exploit and harm the indigenous people of the west coast instead of taking personal responsibility for the lifestyle their constituents enjoy in the Puget Sound corridor and ignoring those obvious and dangerous impacts at home. ""Take the log out of your own eye WFC so you can see to take the speck out of our eye"". SHAME ON YOU GUYS!

Ben Phillips F/V NorthernStar II

- King salmon is needed for subsistence.
- As an Alaskan resident we rely on salmon to survive. Cost of foods are already high and increasing. Without a subsistence lifestyle many Alaska residents could not survive here. Fish in SE Alaska is our main source of food. Washington state needs to do more to protect the salmon in there state and trawlers and other fisheries need to be evaluated for there impact on our ocean floors and habitats.
- My family subsistence fishes. We are sometimes allowed a king salmon in our catch. It is a wonderful and special thing to have. I regard king salmon as a valuable and precious resource. It's true there are declining numbers of salmon but for years Alaskan residents have asked for more research. For more cooperation with environmental groups and governments. Placing King salmon on the list of endangered species is an easy out. We need real solutions based in research and planning. To help the salmon runs there needs to be real work done. Not just labels given.
- I am a former and possibly future commercial troller. As such I did (will) rely on GoA king salmon for my livelihood and I currently rely on them for food. There are many threats to GoA king salmon, but commercial trolling is not one. People would be well advised to spend their money and energy looking at the true threats to this species, ie. trawler bycatch, pollution, habitat loss, etc.
- My tribe is the Cook Inlet. Moved the Wrangell. King salmon are more than important to this household. I troll for subsistence year round when I get the time, or the water is not rough. Life long Alaska native over 60 years.
- I understand the importance of preserving the King Salmon from extinction, but ignoring the damage caused by trawlers will not help achieve this goal. Placing the King Salmon on the endangered list while allowing trawlers to continue harming our waters and destroying wildlife and all species in our ocean from orca to herring does not support species preservation or protection. Instead, it will do no good to put them on the endangered list and only restricts Alaskan residents statewide from accessing healthy, traditional foods for their families. This approach is unjust.
- It is a large percentage of the food caught during the summer to prepare and sustain the family all year.
- King Salmon are culturally important to my friends and the communities I love. The blanket prevention of fishing and the many cultural activities with king salmon would cause incredible harm. NOAA must consult with Tribal governments and allow them to lead when it comes to caring for King Salmon into the future.
- WE rely on the salmon an food and sustenance to get us through the winter. Food for my family.

- I am indigenous to Alaska, belonging to Afognak Native Village, my adult children are Haida and enrolled in Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, from their father's side. King salmon is a main source of food security for my family and our livelihood had depended on it for generations. I personally am of the sea lion people and the bowhead people, the ocean is a part of my DNA. King salmon has a significant influence on my upbringing and the upbringing of my family. Our livelihood includes king salmon as part of our income, is a major subsistence resource, where we practice putting up our food for eating, and sharing. Also, love being out on the water and in the environment where we exist as a way of life.
- I am a commercial salmon troller who depends on fishing the king salmon to make a living.
- We are subsistence users, this is how we eat as a family.
- King salmon account for 40 percent of the income for our troll fishery. King salmon is also important financially to our other salmon fishing members and highly valued for sustenance.
- I have been a resident and sport fisher in Alaska since 1975. I rely on consumption of sport caught king salmon for a major part of my diet.
- I am a commercial fisherman that set nets on the Alsek River, troller and long liner. If the king salmon retention is taken a way from commercial fisherman then it should be take away from everyone fresh and salt water.
- I am a commercial salmon troller and owner of a seafood retail business. King salmon are essential to my business. Without access to King Salmon I cannot operate either my fishing vessel, or seafood business. Four generations of my family have made their living from Salmon Trolling. I oppose the Wild Fish Conservancy's petition to list King Salmon as an endangered species. Wild Fish Conservancy should focus their efforts on the salmon bycatch problem in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries.
- Wild fish conservancy is a special interest group that prioritizes agenda over data-based science. They want all hatcheries shut down. They made claims that orcas do not eat hatchery chinook. They will use fish traps on Columbia River to eradicate hatchery returns. I fish both commercial and to feed myself. Wild Fish Conservancy threatens my lifestyle and food security.
- Stop erasing our god given rights!