

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: EL - STAFF Tasking

*Check the boxes below if you will
have a PowerPoint or Handout*

	NAME (Please Print)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:	Handout	PPT
1	Dale Smith	Native Village of Metkoyuk		
2	Nicole Kimball	RSPA		
3	Christina Handmanson	Eyak Preservation Council	X	
4	Bob Alverson	FVOA - Seabro		
5	Chad See	FLC		
6	CHRIS WOODRUFF / ^{TODD} _{LUOMIS}	GFF		
7	Linda Behnken	AZFA		
8	Stephanie Madge	APA		
9	Heather McCarty	CBSEA		
10	Mateo Paz Soldan / Phil Zavadil	City of St Paul		
11	Nancy Munro	Saltwater Inc.		
12	Julie Bonney			
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(l) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council Members. It is good to see you all again. I would like to start by recognizing Indigenous People's Day and the weight of comments provided by Ms. Hayden and Mr. Amos today.

My name is Christina Hendrickson, and I live in Girdwood, Alaska. I represent the Eyak Preservation Council based in Cordova. My remarks focus on our submitted public comments included in your packet, and allocated for Agenda Section E.

My intent is to advocate that the Council further engage the U.S. Navy and obtain a commitment to move its Northern Edge training to the fall and winter months, per the purpose and need of its Supplement Environmental Impact Statement.

Since our comments in February 2017, our campaign, Summer is for Salmon, united 11 Alaska coastal communities in passing Resolutions requesting that the U.S. Navy move its training. This year it took place May 1st through the 12th.

This week, the U.S. Navy is scheduled to visit Cordova and Kodiak to present a similar ten-minute after action review it gave to Homer in August. The slides present preliminary information. I say preliminary because of a host of factors:

1. Their Mitigation and Monitoring Report to the National Marine Fisheries Service is in DRAFT form and is still under review by the agency's Washington, D.C. office. It is not yet a public document.
2. The U.S. Navy JUST circulated a Survey Monkey to query communities on their comments and observations regarding Northern Edge. Whereas we appreciate the survey, it comes with no baseline and does not account for the cumulative impact of their activities. They themselves have not established a baseline and instead push the burden to the communities to collect trend data to inform them of how they are impacting our economy, our subsistence, our livelihood.
3. The U.S. Navy did not allow Independent Observers aboard their vessels during their exercises to assist in identifying species of concern and mitigating impacts. They claimed that space was not available; and yet, their ship manifests had PRIVATE personal trainers and had invited additional guests from Homer.
4. They continue to defend their decision making is based on "best available science." Their EIS cited decade old studies and baselines.

Our Resolutions went unanswered by the U.S. Navy, but not Senator Murkowski. She has been engaged on a multitude of fronts.

- A. She received and responded to the SIFS letter campaign. We sent letters to 10,149 salmon commercial permit holders in Alaska in spring 2017. We all know how busy of a time that is for them; and yet, 1,217 responded with letters to Senator Murkowski on the issue. During the Senate Appropriations, Armed Forces Subcommittee hearing in May 2017, Senator Murkowski used copy provided to her by SIFS staff, charging Admiral Richardson to uphold its social contract with the local communities to conduct exercises in the waters that provide their livelihood (e.g., high value fisheries). Admiral Richardson testified, *"After the exercise, [we will] do some community*

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engagement to make sure we fully understand that the exercise went as good as it could in this version, and maintain an engagement between exercises to build that habitual relationship.¹

- B. In June 2017, Senator Murkowski responded to Rick Steiner about Northern Edge '17. She stated in her conversation with Admiral Richardson, he *“observed that the Navy and the community must see the same things and see them the same way. And that requires continued conversations about science.”* Additionally, she asked the U.S. Navy to *“conduct a new round of community engagements to discuss the 2017 and 2019 exercises with the Gulf of Alaska stakeholders.”*

Their ten-minute powerpoint is not community engagement. In August 2017, Alaska Command began planning for Northern Edge 2019. Respectfully, we request that you re-engage the U.S. Navy on behalf of your stakeholders and the 11 communities that passed Resolutions requesting that the U.S. Navy move Northern Edge to the fall and winter months and farther offshore – out of Essential Fish Habitat.

In response to your February letter to the U.S. Navy, please insist that their presentations and reports to you demonstrate how decisions were based on “best available science.” Insist that their report to you includes sufficient detail as requested in your letter. Insist that they engage your stakeholders and uphold the commitments they have made.

Protect our livelihood, our local economies, and our culture.

And for members of the public present, more information can be found at www.summerisforsalmon.org

¹ See video on www.summerisforsalmon.org