

Association of Village Council Presidents Press Release



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AVCP Leadership Provide Testimony at the Alaska State Board of Fisheries' "Fish Area M" meeting

Anchorage, Alaska- The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) leadership, is testifying today the Alaska State Board of Fisheries' "Fish Area M" meeting to halt the ongoing salmon crisis facing Western Alaska.

AVCP is advocating for new regulations (Proposal 140) which will help reduce bycatch and salmon intercept.

Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr, AVCP Executive Board Chair *"I am in support of Proposal 140 which reduces commercial fishing times in Area M. Why is a heavy burden placed upon the subsistence users who are trying to sustain themselves and support their nutritional needs? We need a healthy stock every year so we can all enjoy our way of life."*

Raymond Oney, AVCP Executive Board Member Unit 13 *"Our way of life is facing a true crisis as a result of overfishing in area M. The salmon rearing area should be protected."*



Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr, AVCP Executive Board Chair



Raymond Oney, AVCP Executive Board Member Unit 13

Joseph Joseph, AVCP Executive Board Member Unit 7 *“At this critical time if we don’t set a quota system impacting the commercial industry, subsistence and commercial will crash. When greed takes over, you lose your vision of what is happening all around you.”*

Christina Changsak, AVCP Executive Board Member Unit 12 *“I fish for my children and grandchildren. For two years my smoke house has been empty with no fish drying in my rack.”*



Joseph Joseph, AVCP Executive Board Member Unit 7



Christina Changsak, AVCP Executive Board Member Unit 12

John McIntyre, AVCP Division Director *“My people and my family subsistence needs are not being met and yet the state is allowing the interception of our fish to be caught and sold for economic reasons while thousands of our people are experiencing famine.”*

Vivian Korthuis, AVCP Chief Executive Officer *“This is a humanitarian crisis in my opinion and needs to be addressed immediately. Proposal 140 doesn’t ask families in the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Chignik region not to fish and go hungry. We’re simply asking to put some guardrails in place so that all our communities and families can feed themselves.”*



John McIntyre, AVCP Division Director



Vivian Korthuis, AVCP CEO posing with "empty fish bags"

Jennifer Hooper, AVCP Natural Resources Manager *“Right now our situation is critical, and every fish counts and escapement is imperative. My family has a right to subsistence fish for salmon. The one hundred-plus communities and thousands of families in the entire AYK region have a right to fish for food-for subsistence. The Area M fishery is a known intercept fishery, so why not have reasonable windows and sideboards in place to minimize the effects of stocks migrating through. The state has an obligation to protect and provide for subsistence and to prioritize escapement. We need that assurance, and our salmon need that protection. I ask that you consider and pass Proposal 140.”*



Jennifer Hooper



Edward Adams Sr.



Julia Dorris

The Board of Fisheries expects testimony to continue well into tomorrow with Committee of the Whole discussions to follow. The Board is expected to make its determination in the next few days.



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AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.