Thank you, Madam Chair and the Board, for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Libby Musolino, and I am going to highlight some key data on CWAK Chum salmon harvest numbers in the South Alaska Peninsula.

I want to take a moment to build off the data Eva Burk mentioned in her testimony. In 2022, 2023, and 2024 CWAK catch rates in seine and gillnet fisheries remained high throughout June. In this time frame, CWAK continued to follow known migration patterns around the South Alaska Peninsula. Referencing the graphs in RC 136.

In the June 2022 Seine Fishery:

- CWAK is the highest in the June 1 strata in Unimak/SW.
- Peak CWAK harvest is just over doubled in Unimak/SW compared to peak CWAK in SE/SC.

In the June 2022 Gillnet Fishery:

- CWAK is significantly higher than almost all other harvest types in each opener
- Unimak/SW also double/triple amounts as seen in SE/SC

In the June 2023 Seine Fishery:

- CWAK is the highest again ins the June 1 strata in SE/SC and the highest in almost all strata in Unimak/SW
- Again, these Unimak/SW numbers are double/triple the amounts as seen in SE/SC

In the June 2023 Gillnet Fishery:

- CWAK harvest surpasses other groups in all but the first strata
- And double/triple numbers Unimak/SW compared to SE/SC

This analysis shows that there consistently high CWAK counts in 2nd and 3rd strata, especially in Unimak/SW Districts and double and triple the amounts of CWAK caught in Unimak/SW Districts compared to SE/SC.

In 2024, the South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon exvessel value for chum salmon for all gear types was $1,001,691. For the same area and year, the Chum harvest numbers were 575.5 thousand. It can be estimated that approx.155,964.02 (27.1%) of these Chum harvest numbers were CWAK Chum. One could conclude that Area M purseseineing and gillnetting made $271.5 thousand on CWAK chum commercially, while subsistence fishers on the terminal spawning grounds of these fish were either fully or severely restricted from subsistence access.

Looking at the 2024 year end permit holdings, 43% were local, 25% were non-local, and 31% non-resident. The majority of these permits (56%) were held by non-local individuals. Expanding on this, the 10-year average of annual gross earnings from seine permits in Area M yields a 16% difference between non-resident, and residential earnings – favoring non-residents. These same average annual gross earnings for drift permits yields a 19% difference, also in favor of non-residents.

Not only are commercial harvesters in Area M gaining financial benefit from the sale of CWAK Chum, but the majority of these profits go on to benefit non-local economies.

I support proposals that prioritize a window for CWAK Chum to navigate their known migration routes along the South side of the Alaska Peninsula, specifically in the Unimak/Southwest Districts in early-mid June.

Thank you for your time and consideration, today and throughout this week.

Notes for Testimony:

- Raw number sin RC for seet area, region, gear
    - Number of fish caught in fishery
    - June gillnet fisherier

In 2024, approx. double the number of CWAK are being caught in Unimak/SW as opposed to SE/SC. Nearly 31,458

2024 (pg. 53)

- The total June fishery harvest in the Unimak and Southwestern Districts, including both gear types (seine and gillnet) and all strata, was 308,383 fish. Japan and CWAK made up most of the harvest in June with an estimated 91,288 (29.6%) and 84,913 fish (27.5%)
- The total June fishery harvest in the Southeastern and South Central Districts, including both gear types (seine and gillnet) and all strata, was 142,569 fish. Japan and CWAK made up most of the harvest with an estimated 43,721 (30.7%) and 34,938 (24.5%), respectively (Appendix E34). BC/WA contributed an estimated 30,052 fish (21.1%), and Russia contributed an estimated 18,290 fish (12.8%). No other group contributed more than 5% to the June harvest in the Southeastern and South Central Districts
- All Chum Japan and CWAK made up most of the harvest in June with an estimated 43,279 (32.1%) and 31,458 (23.3%) fish
    - 31,458 CWAK Chum made up June 2024 harvest

Pg 386-396 (excell sheet)

- June Unimak/SW district (86,719 median number of chum seine+gillnet)

Appendix A17.–South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon exvessel value by species and gear, 2012–2025, based on fish ticket information (pg 67)

- Chum 2024
    - Purse seine: $771,516
    - Drift gillnet: $199,258
    - Set gillnet: $30,917

Data shows through late June tens of thousands of CWAK fish are passing through Unimak/SW District and being caught. If these fish were allowed to pass through, some would have spawned in these rivers. One spawning females can lay thousands of eggs

450,952 Chum June

27.1% of 1,000,000

One could concluded that Area M pursieners made 271,000 on CWAk chum commercially, while sustience fishers on thet terminal spawingin ground of these fish were either fully or severely restricted form subsistenc eacces.

2024 year end permit holdings

- Local –(43%)
- Non-local (25%)
- Non-resident (31%)

Majority of permit holder sin area M don't live in area m

taken from Fishery Management Report No.26-03 on 2025 South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Annual Management Plan and Fishery Data Series No. 25-63 on the Genetic Stock Composition of Chum Salmon Harvest in Commercial Salmon Fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022-2024

In June 2024

South chum 575,513 of which 450,839 taken in Area M

RC all in one PDF (22,23,24)