

- Good Afternoon Senator Birch and members of the Senate Resources Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify today.
- My name is Lisa Gabriel, I live in Kenai. My husband Brian and I have owned and operated our family setnet site on Kalifornsky Beach since 1987. For the past 32 years, we have worked with our children and now have the honor of sharing our setnetting with our small grandchildren and 80+ year old parents. Each family member, regardless of age, has a job and a value on our beach site.
- I am testifying today in support of SB90. SB90 was brought forward by Senator Micciche at the request of fishermen in hopes of revitalizing our family fishing businesses. It offers fair compensation to fishermen who voluntarily choose to participate in a fleet reduction and exit the fishery, and offers future financial viability and stability for those fishermen, such as myself, who choose to remain. It is fair and entirely voluntary.
- In the past 20 or so years, the fishing opportunity for the Eastside setnet fishery has declined dramatically. The increased pressure on the resource by all users has landed setnet fishermen on the beach for the better part of the fishing season. I believe SB90 is the correct solution to the survival and the longevity of a financially viable setnet fishery.
- SB90 proposes to retire permits, remove nets and close the associated waters. In doing so, the remaining fishermen will be given quality opportunity to harvest the surplus of sockeye moving through the district so their family businesses have the chance of financial survival, as well as providing a sense of predictability for in-river users.
- I believe that closing the associated net locations is an important feature of SB90. Retiring 200 permits, 600 nets and closing the associated water or leases, will offer the remaining family businesses

financial stability and predictability. Without the closure of net locations, it may encourage a re-migration of nets into the recently reduced net sites. This re-migration of nets would reduce the benefit to remaining fishermen in those areas. My husband and I are the stewards of the number one and number two Shore Fisheries leases in Cook Inlet. These legacy sites have survived since territorial days. They fished beside the traps. We would like to protect their history and hope to return them to the productive sites of days gone by.

- SB90 is a step in the right direction for fishermen who have been struggling to survive financially as setnetters in Upper Cook Inlet. Leaving the fishery at this time is the right decision for some setnetters and their families. It must remain the fishermen's decision to proceed only after an affirmative vote, and must remain voluntary for those who choose to participate in the fleet reduction. The selection process will be by lottery, and does not favor one beach or fisherman over another.
- Finally, the mechanics of SB90 will offer fisherman who choose to leave this fishery, the opportunity to move to another fishery, open a new business or maybe even retire. Whatever their personal goals may be, in doing so, those of us who choose to remain in the fishery will have the opportunity to fish with our families and survive with viability and predictability in our businesses, well into the future.
- I would like to thank Senator Micciche for his work on this bill, not only for the fishermen but also the resource itself. I encourage you to approve SB90, it clears a path for the survival of the Eastside Setnet fishery in Cook Inlet and will hopefully spark productive conversation amongst all user groups.
- Thank you again for your time.