

Challenges to participating in NPFMC process

Kodiak Rural Regional Leadership Forum notes September 26, 2019

1. Logistical

- Getting to the meeting is a challenge be it **travel costs** or weather issues
- Location of the meeting is a huge factor

2. Knowledge of Issues

- Lack of understanding as to why it is important to participate/follow issues/testify
- Lack of understanding of terminology/acronyms
- Lack of historical knowledge on evolution of fisheries/MSA and NPFMC by younger generation
- Rural communities feel like voices are not heard and big economic interests will prevail anyway so why bother
 - Remedy: Leadership at community/tribe/corporation levels need to be more engaged and share info
 - Remedy: Do the research, it's your responsibility
 - Remedy: Reach out to NPFMC staff and form relationships
 - Remedy: Get to know the NPFMC website, follow three meeting outlook

3. Fear of Testifying

- Intimidation factor providing testimony
 - Remedy: option to not be asked questions
 - Remedy: opportunity to testify via teleconference
 - Remedy: testify as a group, one testifies, others answer questions
 - Remedy: one testifies and asks those in audience who came with and support position to stand
 - Remedy: opportunity to meet Council members informally creating relationships (ie, meet and greet or receptions)
 - Remedy: training on public speaking
 - Remedy: attend a few Council meetings, meet Council members, before making first testimony