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