

RC 29

(1999)
v7

NO 337

A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN

We are the residents of Herring Cove, and we are writing to express our concerns and apprehensions regarding the upcoming fishing season(s). There have been designated closures in this area for many years, but we have learned that Herring Cove will now be open to fishing from the beach, due to a greatly increased return of Kings and Cohos that were released from the SSRAA Herring Cove Hatchery 5 years ago. This increased release was initiated at that time by Rep. Bill Williams and Sen. Robin Taylor for sport fishing, however, **local residents were not informed** of unusually large returns at the time. Now it is imminent, and we are told by Fish & Game to expect large numbers of anglers using the beach. The anticipated return this year is 5,700; next year it is something like 10,000. Once the Hatchery has replaced its brood stock their ladders will be shut and the rest will be "up for grabs".

Our greatest concern is that no preparation has been made by ANY authority to handle the additional vehicular and foot traffic, parking, safety problems, trespassing, and littering of both our neighborhood and the beach. We are told by Fish and Game that they do not have the authority to close the fishery, nor do they have funds to develop designated trails to access the beach. The Dept. of Natural Resources controls the land beyond the high water mark and the Department of Transportation controls some of the property ostensibly designated to provide access to the shoreline. We are told there are 3 of these areas, however, none of these access points have been developed in any way. **This leaves beach anglers no choice but to trespass across private inhabited property. Confrontations between the residents and trespassers are inevitable**, there will be many calls to state troopers to sort out the problems, and we are well aware of how understaffed they are. **There are no public sanitary facilities of any kind in Herring Cove; please reference the attached letter** from Department of Fish and Game about this.

We all appreciate how important sport and commercial fishing is to Ketchikan and we do not suggest that the fishery be closed. We do suggest, however, that a **reasonable alternative** to a free-for-all "combat fishing" situation would be to allow boats in the area, **but prohibit fishing from the beach until public access facilities (parking, trails and sanitary facilities) have actually been developed.**

A page of residents' signatures is attached hereto and a copy of this letter has been sent to the attached list of governmental agencies.

original 1999
Sign up

HERRING COVE RESIDENTS SIGNATURE PAGE

HERRING COVE RESIDENTS SIGNATURE PAGE

Print Name
Agay Ramoif / Andy
Signature
[Signature]
Address
7902 S. Tongass Hwy.

Print Name
Margaret Chibby
Signature
[Signature]
Address
2960 S. Tongass Hwy.

Print Name
Phoebe Bagelow
Signature
[Signature]
Address
88 8915, KEMMAN AK 99701

Print Name
W. W. WALKER
Signature
[Signature]
Address
7920 S. Tongass Hwy. AK 99909

Print Name
ERNEST W. WALKER
Signature
[Signature]
Address
7980 S. Tongass Hwy. AK 99909

Print Name
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Signature
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Print Name
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Signature
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[Blank]

Print Name
Sharon L. Wa
Signature
[Signature]
Address
7900 S. Tongass

Print Name
Deon's A. Bee
Signature
[Signature]
Address
9230 S. Tongass

Print Name
JANE L. BRANT
Signature
[Signature]
Address
9230 S. Tongass

Print Name
Stanley L. Berrison
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8170 S. Tongass

Print Name
Catherine L. Fallon
Signature
[Signature]
Address (owner)
8278 S. Tongass

Print Name
Michael J. Fallon, M.D.
Signature
[Signature]
Address (owner)
8278 S. Tongass Hwy.

Print Name
[Blank]
Signature
[Blank]
Address
[Blank]

Print Name
[Blank]
Signature
[Blank]
Address
[Blank]

Print Name
David P. H. Pearson
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8766 J.O. TONGASS HWY

Print Name
Michael Pearson
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8766 So Tongass HWY

Print Name
Susan Perry
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8352 S. Tongass Hwy

Print Name
MIKE Jauseco
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8752 S. Tongass

Print Name
Louise Beebe
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8332 S. Tongass

Print Name
Curtis Powell
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8322 S. Tongass

Print Name
Sharon L. Huffman
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8302 S. Tongass

Print Name
DAVID PEARSON
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8258 S. Tongass Hwy

Print Name
Debra J. Pearson
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8276 S. Tongass Hwy

Print Name
Erica Hoff
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8278 S. Tongass

Print Name
ALAN WAT
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8278 S. Tongass Hwy

Print Name
Janis R. Berrison
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8278 S. Tongass Hwy

Print Name
KRISTEN CARLISLE
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8630 So. Tongass Hwy

Print Name
MATHLEEN A. BERRISON
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8170 S. Tongass

HERRING COVE RESIDENTS SIGNATURE PAGE

Print Name
HALLI KENODER
Signature
[Signature]
Address
448 STG HWY, KTN AK

Print Name
Frank Steiner
Signature
[Signature]
Address
89 Power House Rd.

Print Name
Sal Berardi
Signature
[Signature]
Address
8381 So Tongass Hwy, KTN.

Print Name
JACQUE REESE
Signature
[Signature]
Address
122 POWERSHOUSE RD. KTN.

Print Name
HARRY DEWITT
Signature
[Signature]
Address
200 LANE RD

Print Name
Clayton Kowale
Signature
[Signature]
Address
114 Power Hs Rd. STG

Print Name
[Blank]
Signature
[Blank]
Address
[Blank]

Print Name
Ben H Fleener
Signature
[Signature]
Address
819 S. Tongass

Print Name
Karolyn Crocker-Bedford
Signature
[Signature]
Address
44 B. Power Hs Rd

Print Name
Tim Barry
Signature
[Signature]
Address
KTN. AK 99901

Print Name
[Blank]
Signature
[Blank]
Address
[Blank]

Print Name
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Att ; BOF comments
Boards support section
Alaska department of fish and game

Low
1-27-12

In regards to proposal #337 herring cove. Since 1999 the residents of herring cove have been asking for help in the management of the fishermen in the cove . as you are aware the fishery has grown and so has the influx of people. We are requesting that no snagging be allowed in the cove for reasons listed

Miles of line that the seals, eagles and bear get caught in.

The beach is unsafe to walk because of treble hooks

It is a safety issue for the workers of the hatchery

I am sure that the lead levels in the creek area are very high

Second there be a time line from 7am to 7pm since the cove is a residential area and people are fishing at all hrs

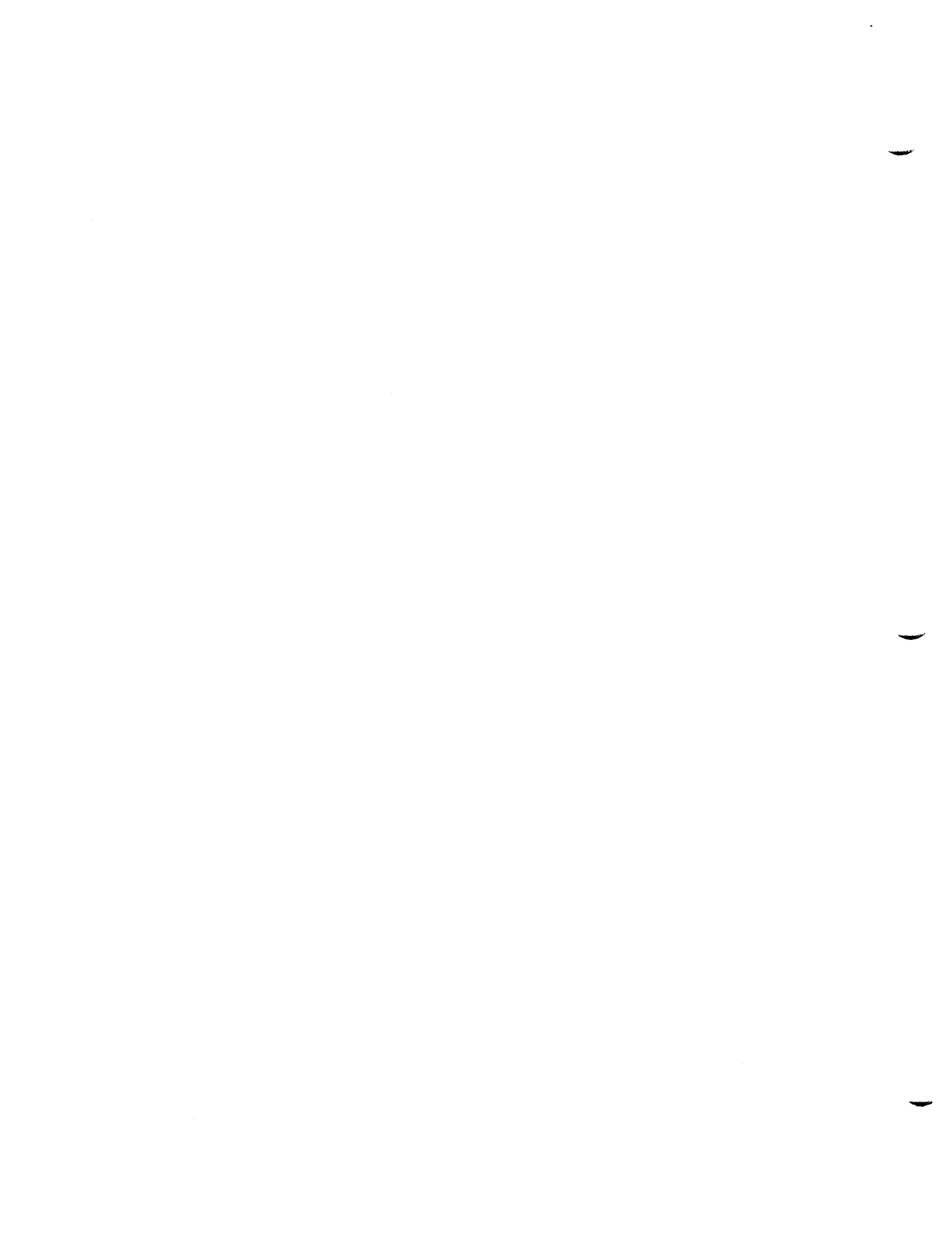
It will also be coordinated with a low tide time limit 2hrs before and 2hrs after; it will give law enforcement something to work from.

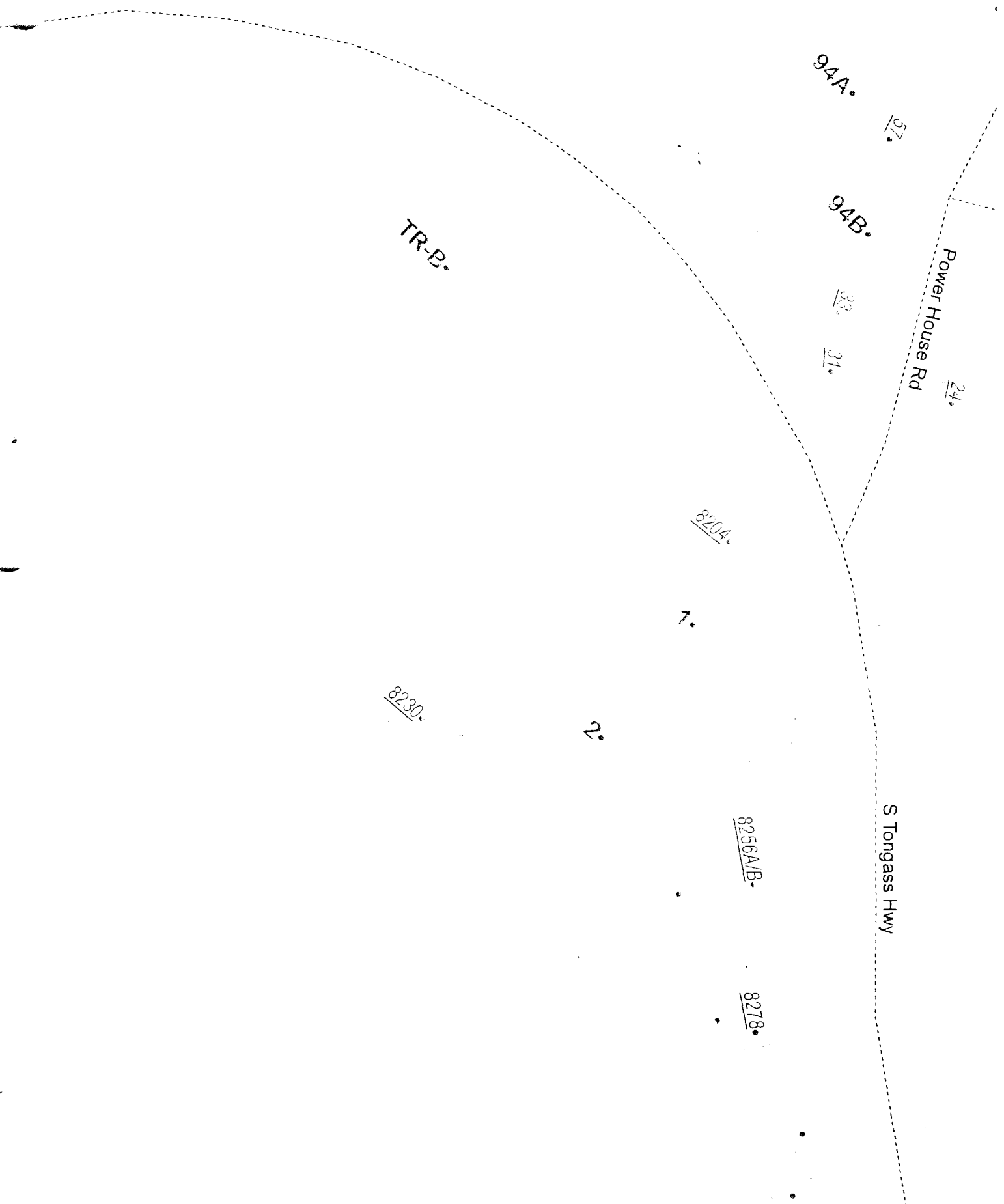
The time line will also give the bears time to come eat as should be

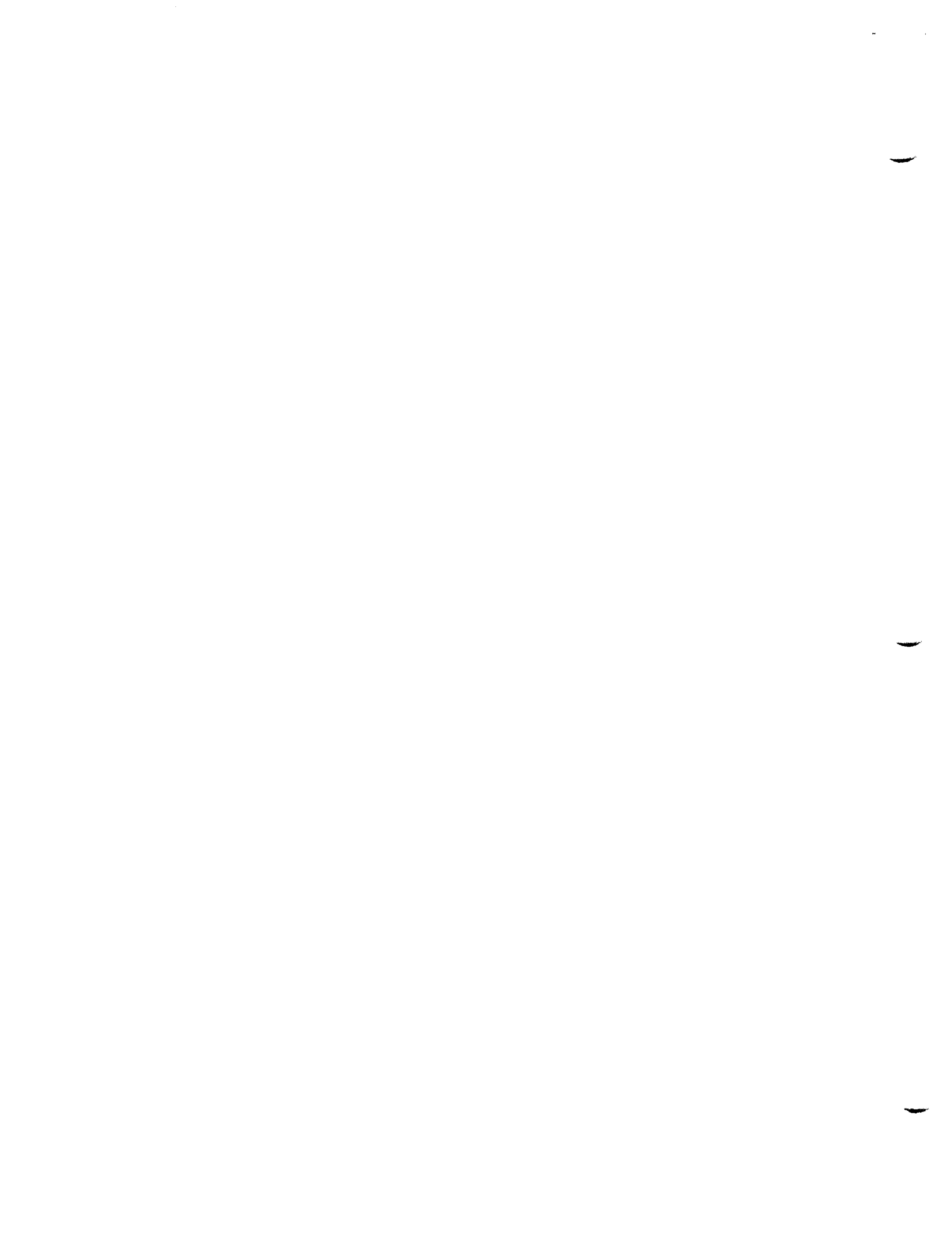
There are no restrooms ,garbage receptacles or safe access.

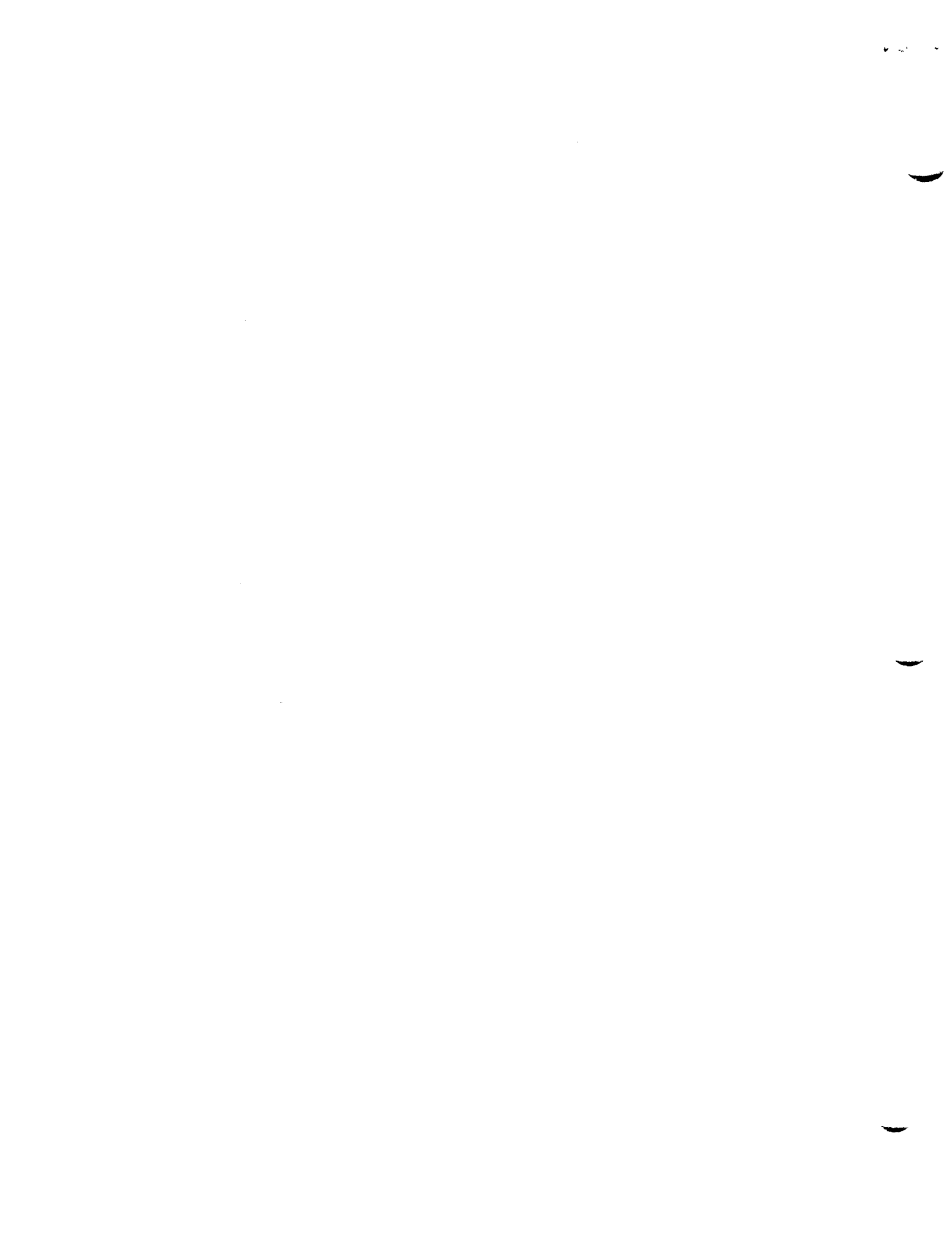
We would also like you to take responsibility for the fishermen so we as home owners are not liable.

Dennis and Janet brand
8230 south tongass hwy
Ketchikan Alaska









RC30

Al Wilson

P.O. Box 597, Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-5165 or (907) 735-1894
Email: berryisl@gci.net

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Total of 4 Pages

PROPOSAL 239-I SUPPORT this proposal.

I was raised on the shores of Auke Bay, Alaska where, at the time, we had a tremendous herring resource. Oral History told us this had been going on for thousands of years and one of the main reasons why the Auke tribe settled there. We lived at the edge of a tidal cove. When the herring were running the cove boiled with herring at high tide and when the tide went out thousands of herring were stranded in the rock kelp or in shallow tidal pools. People came and took what they needed. The herring spawned heavily on our branches and life was good. Then the herring seiners came. They said there were several huge biomasses of herring in Lynn Canal and they would take only one small corner of one biomass. Then there was nothing and as it remains there is still nothing.

I've lived in Aleutkina Bay three plus miles from Sitka for almost fifty years. There was a tremendous herring resource in that area between Silver Point and Cape Burunof, a short flight distance of two miles but a shoreline distance of seven miles. Tlinget oral history says for thousands of years the annual herring spawning runs began in Deep Inlet and spread north and south from there. In the early years of living in Aleutkina Bay, I needed only one set of branches placed five minutes from our dock to provide all we needed for ourselves, family and friends with whom we shared. Further, I gathered herring eggs on hair kelp from the outward edges of Sandy Cove and herring eggs on macrocystis kelp from Pirates Cove both of which were no farther than fifteen minutes away. Life was good. Then the salmon hatcheries came. We were told all release pens and salmon harvest effort was to be confined to Deep Inlet so it seemed that would have little effect to our subsistence life. Instead, when the salmon first returned a larger harvest area was needed and the area was expanded from Silver Point to Cape Burunof by emergency order. Living out there every day I could see substantial changes occurring in the herring runs. Salmon fry were released a month after the herring spawned when the bays were filled with herring larvae, a natural food for the salmon fry. I began an effort to change the geographic location of the release pens in face of diminishing herring runs in this location. In short, the correspondence documenting my effort fills a complete filing cabinet drawer. The hatchery folks and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) became defensive of the hatchery release pens in Deep Inlet. The hatchery folks pushed aside anything I said as did the ADF&G. The herring disappeared. The ADF&G said the herring moved in mass to somewhere else. The herring have not returned. Now noted fisheries biologists agree

substantially with everything I have said and say further, it is that the immature herring must compete for the same food as the millions of salmon fry dumped into the bay that does the most damage to the herring stocks.

I moved my effort to harvest herring to that area from Whiting Harbor to the north side of Crow Island. In the early sixties I participated in the commercial spawn on kelp harvest that took place there. I was one of the early scuba divers in the area so I not only did well but also gained an intimate knowledge of the area. Although with much more effort than before, our spawn on branches, hair kelp, and macrocystis kelp harvest did well. Then the sac roe herring fishery began and we subsistence harvesters saw a diminishing supply of product as the fishery took place in our main harvest area. More subsistence sets were being put out trying to maintain previous levels of harvest but even so there were years we did poorly. Tlingit oral history tells us that this area has been prolific in herring spawn for thousands of years. In 2008 I put out ten sets of branches and had a zero return. We asked that ADF&G manage the fishery away from what we now called the core subsistence area. Ignored at first, I believe ADF&G saw what was happening and tried to manage the fishery away from this area but seemingly succumbed to pressures from the commercial fleet and continued fishing here.

The 2012 Gross Harvest Limit, GHL, has been raised a substantial 33% over the previous year which was the highest in place for this fishery up to that time. Based on how long the fishery has lasted in the past with a lesser GHL, it is clear to us that the fishery season will extend into the time when the subsistence harvest is at its peak. There is also no question in our minds that the core subsistence area will be heavily fished by the permit holders as they work to fulfill a harvest limit far beyond what they struggled for last year. Accordingly, we expect a disastrous subsistence harvest to occur. It would be difficult to even begin to measure the effects the loss of food, loss of economic benefit, and loss to our culture such a disaster would have. Such a discourse would easily fill a book. As herring stocks in all other areas of Southeast Alaska, such as Auke Bay, Craig, Kah Shakes, West Behm Canal, Katz Island, and others were wiped out from over fishing our peoples subsistence needs were met from other places still bountiful with herring. Now Sitka is the last place a viable subsistence harvest of herring can occur. People come from all over to harvest herring eggs here and we ship herring eggs to family and friends throughout Southeast Alaska and elsewhere.

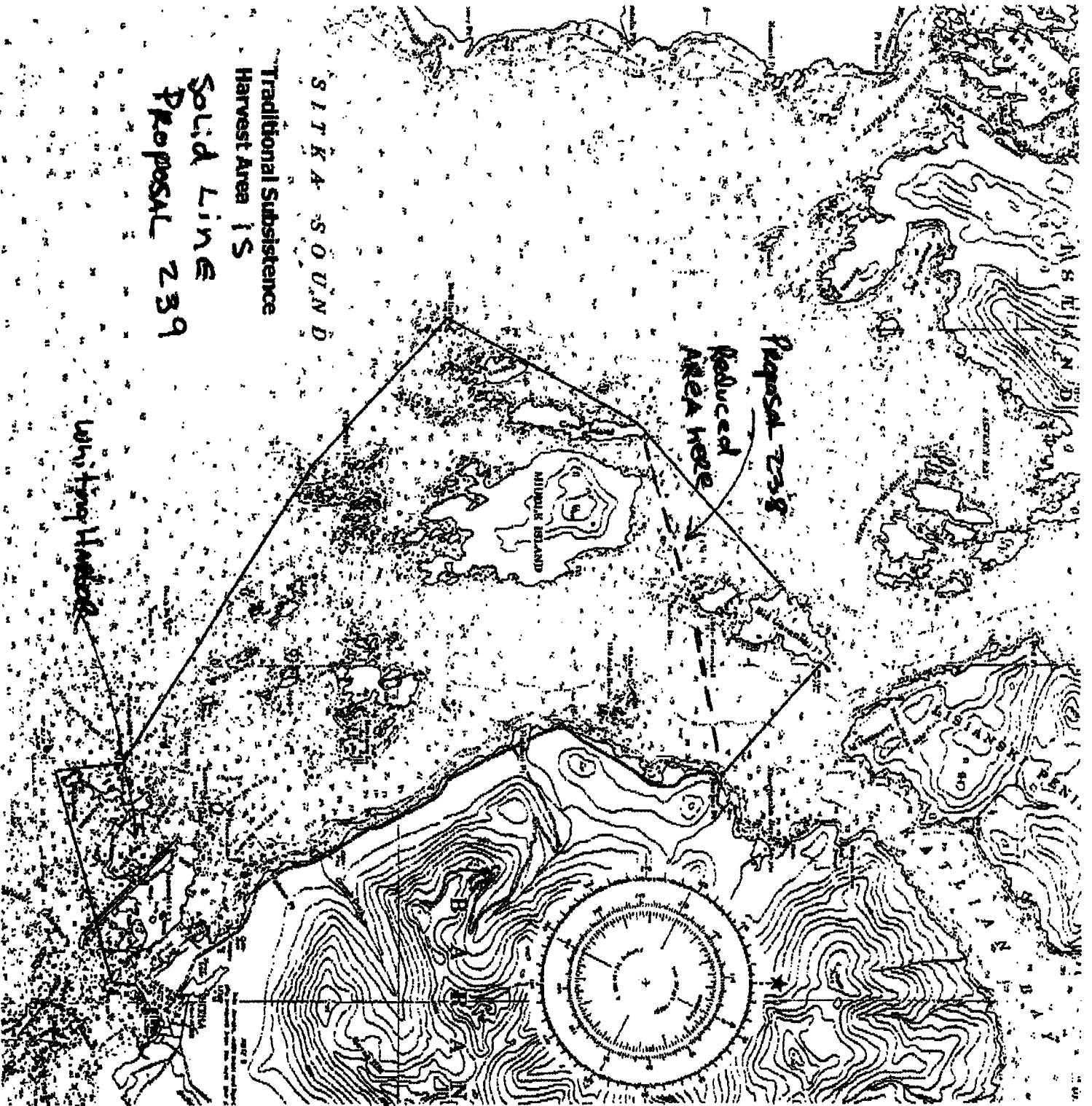
The ADF&G is charged with first, protecting the resource; second, providing for a commercial harvest; and third providing reasonable opportunity for a subsistence harvest. A substantial amount of money and effort is spent on the first two charges but little if any on the third. There is no plan in place to provide reasonable opportunity for a subsistence harvest. Proposal 239 offers such a plan. Proposal 238 put forth by the Sitka Advisory Committee is identical except for a small area added by 239 (indicated on Addendum A). I was there when the committee failed to pass supporting their proposal on a tie vote. Obviously there are Sitka Advisory committee members that represent large gear groups that see what is happening out there and feel something must be done or the vote would not have been as close as it was.

When considering the merits of aforementioned proposals, please consider this: A new card has been thrown onto the table and that is the invasive tunicate *Didemnum vexillum* (Dvex). The species was found in Whiting Harbor and is spreading from there. Further, a storm took out a portion of a dock in Whiting Harbor that was infested with Dvex and carried it out to Western Channel which is in the core subsistence area. Biologists have stated their concern that Dvex may displace herring spawning activities. Others are saying no fishery of any type should occur here. Herring seiners could easily pick up the invasive species and transport it throughout Sitka Sound in a matter of days. The packers that transport the herring to other places for processing could carry it with them and infest other Alaskan waters. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska is recommending that no subsistence harvest of herring be done in Whiting Harbor or Western Channel at all because of the Dvex problem. As you can see, a large chunk has already been taken out of the core subsistence area and because of this we ask that as you consider Proposal 239 and do not to reduce the area any further.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. V. S.', written in a cursive style.

Attachments: Addendum A

Addendum A



RC31

Otto Florschutz

Bx 547

Wrangell AK, 99929

Proposal 292: Support

This proposal asks you to delay the gillnet opening 20 hours to give an opportunity to fishermen who wish to observe Sunday Sabbath worship services. Currently all openings before the second Sunday in June commence on Monday, on or after that 2nd Sunday they switch to Sunday openings. Opening day is nearly always the most lucrative day of the opening but is a day those with strong religious and family beliefs are prohibited or conflicted in fishing. As most openings are 2-3 days, it is it is very hard to give up 12 hrs. of fishing time out of 48 or 72. This proposal would not stop fishing from occurring on Sunday in the event an opening was extended throughout the week. Currently news releases come out Thursday afternoon; managers might need to release these on Friday instead. AD F & G managers I have spoken to did not believe this would pose any undue problems as some seine releases come out late in the week or even on weekends.

Since submitting this proposal I have had gillnet fishermen thank me, some have said they do not care when they fish and others do not want any change. As a participant in this fishery who has been greatly disadvantaged by the opening time I hope to get a ground swell of support so you can make this small change.

COMMENTS FOR SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL 307

**By the AUTHOR of 307
Michael W. White**

To: The Board of Directors
From: The Sponsor of 307
Michael W. White
Re: Your consideration of 307
Date: February 22, 2012

Greetings

First of all thank you for all your time and commitment to Alaska, the fisherman and most importantly our fisheries resources. As the author of Proposal #307 I would like to make a few comments.

Proposal 307 was never about or intended to increase the catch rate for this gear group. It is a simple proposal that would allow those with injuries to Use a manual downrigger in conjunction with a sport pole.

The current winter regulations allow the use of this gear combination. As I mentioned in the proposal there is no data that would support an opinion that this would increase a hand trollers catch rate.

However there are a few, that would argue this to my disbelief. I have spent many years hand trolling and I guess it's fair to say that with the traditional set up I averaged 10 to 14 leaders in the water. This current proposal along with the current gear regulations only allow for maximum of four sport poles which is really not achievable. Two poles on manual downriggers are what are really manageable.

For a power troller or the Department to argue that my two to four hooks is giving me an advantage over another gear groups is nothing but rhetoric, and should be embarrassing as their argument. "Hell" if that's the case I'll show them how to choke a proper herring so they can get the job! It's just math, two to four hooks versus ten to fourteen. Some say there could an enforcement problem "hum" really? This is a win win proposal easy on the

fish and easy on those of us turning grey. We are just looking for a little pain relief and cost reduction on the doctor bill.

Once again I thank you for your time, commitment and your consideration. If you have any question please don't hesitate to call (907) 738-6507

Michael W. White
1511 Halibut Point Road
Sitka, Alaska. 99835

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-262)

PROPOSAL 307 - 5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations. Allow downriggers in Southeast Commercial hand troll fishery all season as follows:

Handtrollers have the option of hand- powered downriggers in conjunction with fishing rods and hand powered reels for all seasons.

ISSUE: Use of downriggers by hand troll vessels is currently restricted to only the winter season. This proposal would allow the use of downriggers for all season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Those with injuries such as shoulder and arm injuries would continue to aggravate injury with the use of hand gurdies, resulting in increased loss of income and higher medical costs. Higher operating costs due to the use of heavier commercial type gear. Higher by catch of other species. Downriggers can fish at precise depths therefore reducing the catch of non targeted species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Salmon hooked on rod and reel type gear are less likely to be foul hooked than salmon hooked on handgurdies resulting in a higher quality product. The mortality rate would be reduced due to the decrease of foul hooked fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hand trollers would benefit from having this option available to them. Those with physical limitations. All power and hand trollers, will benefit by having the ability to produce a higher quality product that will reflect in the overall retail market.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Since this proposal allows the option of using considerably less gear, producing higher quality fish, reducing bycatch and reducing the mortality rate, it does not have a negative impact on anybody in the fisheries that I can think of. There is no data produced by anybody, that would suggest that this proposal would have an unfair or an advantage over other gear groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Extending the season that downriggers are allowed, to include the spring season, but not the summer season.

PROPOSED BY: Michael W. Whitre (HQ-F11-078)

PROPOSAL 308 - 5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations. Allow six trolling lines on specified inside waters of Southeast Alaska to increase the harvest of enhanced salmon as follows:

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards support section

Alaska DF&G

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Mark Roberts

Petersburg AK

troller

Mr. Chairmen and Board

My name is Mark Roberts. I have been living in Petersburg and trolling in Southeast for the last 33 years. I'm here to talk about Proposal #310.

This Proposal would result in the Alaska hatchery fish caught in the winter fishery not being counted towards the 45- thousand fish winter fishery cap. This would put about 4-5 thousand more fish into the winter fishery, bringing the total winter fish count up to 49-50 thousand fish.

The reason why a lot of us are against this, is because we have already done a lot to help the winter fishery maximize its potential. The Board of Fish moved the winter fishery April 15th closure date to the 30th. This I

know has really helped to extend the winter fishery. Troller's knew when the Board of Fish passed this, that the winter fishermen would then

almost always catch the entire winter quota of 45,000 fish. They knew those fish would not be available to the fleet in the summer fishery.

The Chinook Troll Task Force, created by the Board of Fish in 1993, structured the fishery as we know it today. They were told by the Board to strive for a minimum 10 day king opening in the summer, with a goal of 20 days. Their reasoning was to keep down the incidental mortality of king salmon during the coho fishery after the Chinook quota was

harvested. If we keep taking from the summer fishery the 10-20 day opening will be hard to accomplish. Remember that the quota was recently cut another 15% and that's coming out of the summer season.

Another one of the arguments used by 310's proposers is the winter fishery's high price. In the last two weeks of April the catch rate increases dramatically. Which customarily floods the fresh fish market and brings the prices down comparable to the summer prices.

Consequently there is not a big difference between the summer and winter prices in the last two weeks in the winter fishery. If anything, adding 5 thousand fish at the end of winter season would drive the price even lower. Again, we have done a lot for the Winter fishery and now we

need to keep the summer fishery in good health. The current Chinook management structure, put together by the Task Force is working for everyone.

PC 34

PC 3A-

on the index of comments
was inaccurately logged as
support for proposal 212

Curran PC 3A IS OPPOSE
to Proposal 212

- Boards staff

Proposal 216 - index of comments
correction —

PC 39, PC 73, PC 78 —

all were opposed to proposal 216

the index inaccurately shows
they support.

— Boards Staff

Mr. Chairman and Board members;

I am the author of proposal 206 brought forward through the Ketchikan Advisory Committee.

There was a typo in the proposal that said "in the Ketchikan area". It should have read "in Southeast Alaska."

Thank you

Donald Westlund