

## **On Time Public Comment List**

Breena Apgar-Kurtz PC1  
Richard Marshall PC2  
Beaver Nelson PC3  
Alaska Federation of Natives PC4  
City & Borough of Yakutat PC5  
Adak Community Development Corporation (ACDC) PC6  
Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (SHCA) PC7  
Tsiu River Coalition PC8  
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) PC9  
United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) PC10  
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) PC11  
Edward Rabinowe PC12  
Richard Eliason Jr. PC13  
United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) PC14  
Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) PC15  
Upper Cook Inlet Eastside Setnetter (UCIES) PC16  
Ernie Weiss PC17  
Richard Eliason Jr. PC18  
Sitka Tribe of Alaska PC19  
Kenai Peninsula Fisherman's Association PC20  
Heather Riggs PC21  
Brian Gabriel Sr. PC22  
Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) PC23  
Gregory Gabriel, Jr. PC24  
Aaron Bean PC26  
Andy and Melissa Hall PC27

BREENA APGAR-KURTZ

BOF COMMENTS

ATTENTION: BOF COMMENTS

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

ADF&G

PO BOX 115526

JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526



Proposal 35: Vessel specifications and operations

I oppose Proposal 35 that would increase vessel length over 32 feet. This would create an unfair advantage to people who could afford to buy a bigger boat. This regulatory change would benefit non-local fishermen the most because they have the money to spend on a bigger boat whereas the local guys would not be able to compete with these guys.

Proposal 36: Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay

I oppose Proposal 36 because it would concentrate power into fewer hands of this fishery. The people who will buying the extra permit to fish more gear are most likely non-local residents. Non-local residents already have enough power over the fishery.

Proposal 41, Proposal 42 and Proposal 43: Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay

I oppose Proposal 41, Proposal 42 and Proposal 43 based on my findings from my Master's Thesis, Factors Affecting Local Permit Ownership in Bristol Bay and an Evaluation of the BBEDC Permit Loan Program: An Analysis of Based on Interviews with Local Residents. In interviews with Bristol Bay watershed residents last summer, I asked people whether they thought dual permits on one boat was helping or hurting local residents. Here are their thoughts on this issue. Here is an excerpt:

**12. Fishing drift dual permits helps/hurts locals?**

A total of 70 people responded to this question.

This is a relatively new regulation allowing two permit holders to fish on one boat with 150 fathoms of gear. One permit holder is allowed 100 fathoms of net so fishing dual permits is not twice the amount of gear. This regulation was passed to help local permit holders get back into the fishery if they do not have a boat. It is supposed to lower the barriers to entry to buying a permit because it is removing the other main expense to entering the fishery, buying a boat. I asked this question to local participants in the drift fishery to understand whether they thought this regulation was helping them.

The interview results suggest that people have mixed feelings about this regulation. 48.6% of respondents said two permits on one boat helps locals, but 35.7% of respondents thought it hurts locals.

**Fishing drift dual helps/hurts locals?**

**Table 12.1**

	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
	Drift Respondents	Drift Respondents
TOTAL	70	100.0%
Helps locals	34	48.6%
Hurts locals	25	35.7%
I do not know	9	12.9%
It helps everyone	2	2.9%
Number of people asked	72	

This regulation was designed to help permit holders who do not have a boat remain in the fishery. This target group is more likely to live in a rural village instead of Dillingham because they have fewer resources to buy or maintain a boat. I wanted to understand if respondents in these villages thought this regulation was helping them. 52.2% of people in Dillingham thought this regulation was hurting them but most people in Manokotak, New Stuyahok and Togiak thought this regulation was helping them.

Fishing drift dual helps/hurts locals?

Table 12.2

	Number of responses				Percentage of responses			
	Dillingham	Manok-otak	New Stuy-ahok	Togiak	Dillingham	Manok-otak	New Stuy-ahok	Togiak
TOTAL	23	1	16	17	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Helps locals	7	1	10	8	30.4%	100.0%	62.5%	47.1%
Hurts locals	12	0	5	5	52.2%	0.0%	31.3%	29.4%
I do not know	2	0	1	4	8.7%	0.0%	6.3%	23.5%
It helps everyone	2	0	0	0	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of people asked	23	1	18	17				

The people who are supposed to be benefiting from this regulation believe it is helping them. Although many people think it has helped non-local fishermen too, people are more likely to think this regulation is helpful if they have benefited from it. There are few people in Togiak who fish two permits on one boat so they are the least likely to be familiar with this regulation. 23.5% of respondents in Togiak did not know if the regulation helped or hurt them and some of these people did not know the regulation existed.

Although this regulation has helped to get more local permit holders back into the fishery, most permit holders who fish as dual permit holders on one boat live outside of Bristol Bay. To take advantage of this regulation of allowing more gear on board, most boats that have two permits holders aboard are some of the larger boats. All boats are restricted to 32 feet in length but the biggest boats are much wider and taller. On average, local permit holders have smaller boats and may not be able to accommodate the extra gear and crewmembers.

The rationale for allowing two permit holders to fish on one boat with more gear is to allow villagers who have permits but no boats to get them back into fishing. A person who has bought a permit faces lower costs because they only pay for the permit and can fish with another person, usually a family member, until they get enough money to buy their own boat. Permit Holder Drift Dillingham BBEDC 2 does not have a boat and thinks this regulation has helped him get into the fishery because he could not afford a boat and a permit. Permit Holder Drift Dillingham BBEDC 1 and his partner bought a permit. They shared a boat and permit until Permit Holder Drift Dillingham BBEDC 1 bought a permit and this year, bought a boat, splitting their partnership. He does not think that fishing dual made enough money

to justify the expense of extra gear and crewmembers.

*"During those lean years it was supposed to help people get back into the water. It helped anyone. That still exists. I think that as fish prices continue to increase, dual permits are going to split fishing partners because we could get a second boat fairly economically."* BBEDC 2/ Permit Holder Drift Dillingham 4

*"It hurts local people because they cannot afford another permit. 90% of dual boats are from outside, very few locals. There are a few that fish together locally but not many. They cannot afford to set aside money for another permit. They have to eat, live. The cost of living out here is so high that they cannot afford it."* Crewmember Drift Dillingham 2

*"I think you do not make any money fishing dual. The guy with the boat wants a bigger share and if you are the one to jump on the boat, you do not make any money but it is better than having no boat... Several people with permits have fished the season with someone else, as a dual permit. One here in Togiak, another in another village. The one from here who does not have a boat has to fish with an 18-foot Lund since the first guy with the boat went home. Fish the channel with an 18 foot Lund but you get a 1000 pounds or less per delivery."* Crewmember Set Togiak 1

*"I am not convinced that fishing a dual permit helped us. We had to bring extra crewmembers and the extra permit and I am not convinced it was worth it or that we caught more fish. It can be worth it if the two permits are in the family."* Permit Holder Drift Dillingham BBEDC 1

*"It helped me a lot. I do not have to pay for any expenses. I do not have a boat, nets, the only thing I have to worry about is working on the boat."* Permit Holder Drift Dillingham BBEDC 2

*"I think it hurts local fishermen... Most do not have the capacity (on their boats)... If you took another permit for a dual permit, I haven't seen the crewmembers shares go up on it... It goes against the intent of Limited Entry."* Permit Holder Drift Dillingham 5

In New Stuyahok, there are many permit holders who either do not have a boat at all or a boat in working order so these people have been fishing as dual permit holders with another Outside fishermen

rather than other permit holders in New Stuyahok who have a boat. Many boats in New Stuyahok are too small to accommodate the extra crewmembers and crewmembers.

People think locals benefit from fishing on another person's boat when they do not have a boat. This only works well when the two permit holders treat each other fairly. Several permit holders in New Stuyahok have had negative experiences fishing as dual permit holders with non-local permit holders. These permit holders felt inexperienced in writing up a contract with their partner so they accepted the terms they were given but afterwards they felt the non-local permit holder took advantage of them. Or they had a hard time collecting payment at the end of the season.

*"The first time I tried a D boat, it helped a lot but the last 2 experiences somewhat hurt me because I did not get my fair share."* Permit Holder New Stuyahok 7

A situation where it may not work well for the permit holder who owns the boat is if the second permit holder jumps onto another boat, leaving the boat owner with too much gear and too many crewmembers. Permit Holder New Stuyahok 4 said that when the boat he was on broke down, he jumped to another boat to continue fishing. If this permit holder continued to jump from boat to boat than it would not help the boat owner. In different situations it could be bad for either permit holder.

*"I did that a couple of times. When we broke down, I jumped onto another boat."* Permit Holder Drift New Stuyahok 4

The implication for increasing local permit ownership is that it helps people retain their permit if they do not have a boat. Secondly, this regulation is helping crewmembers buy into the fishery because they can fish a dual permit on someone else's boat rather than have to spend more money on a boat. Still the main obstacle is if they fish on their family member's boat, the boat may not be able to accommodate the extra gear or crewmembers.

#### Proposal 54: Gillnet Specification and Operations

I oppose Proposal 54 because it would only benefit people who are wealthy enough to own 2 permits and these permit holders are likely non-residents. Residents have more family members who fish with them so they can put the second permit in the family member's name. This regulation would benefit people who are trying to set up illegal operations where they own multiple permits and leases. They

may have all the leases in one person's name who is considered the owner of the other permits that are in his crewmembers' names. This is illegal because a person isn't legally allowed to own all of those set net permits and if they are in his crewmembers' names then they have no legal obligation to give the permit back to the "real owner." If you want to bust these operations then you look at who is leasing all of these sites and realize that this person is controlling more than 2 permits per person.

RECEIVED  
SEP 20 2012  
BOARDS

SIGNATURE: Richard W. Marshall DATE: 9/17/2012

**Note: Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.**

ADE&G staff should be directed to prepare a stock  
assessment and to present it to the Board during its  
October 10 work session



September 21, 2012

Board of Fisheries  
Juneau, Ak

RE: ACR # 1 - Designating herring as a forage fish under the Forage Fish  
Management Plan

ACR #1 has an obvious purpose - that is to provide for closing all commercial herring fisheries regardless of the abundance of the resource. The primary roe herring fisheries in Sitka, Kodiak and Togiak all have strong, healthy populations that support lucrative commercial harvest year after year for the benefit of all the people of Alaska. ADFG managers do a great job of protecting the resources through wise management.

This ACR should be refused.



Emil "Beaver" Nelson - herring seiner in Alaska since 1989  
Box 130  
Homer Ak 99603

VIA FAX: 907-465-6094



ALASKA FEDERATION  
OF NATIVES

September 19, 2012

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
By fax to (907) 465-6094

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Support for Agenda Change Request (ARC) to Add Herring to the State's Forage Fish Management Plan

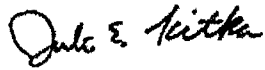
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I am writing to express our support for the agenda change request (ARC) submitted by Aaron Bean that calls for a regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Chupea pallasii*) to the State's forage fish management plan (5 AAC 39.212).

AFN is the largest and most representative Alaska Native organization in Alaska. Its membership currently represents 178 villages (both federally recognized tribes and village corporations), 13 regional for-profit Native corporations (established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and 12 regional Native nonprofit tribal consortia that offer a broad range of human services to their member tribes. The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of Alaska Natives. Our Board of Directors includes representation from the 13 Regional Corporations, 12 regional nonprofit tribal associations and a village/tribal representative from each of the 12 regions of Alaska.

The existing administrative code fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. Pacific herring are considered an ecological and cultural keystone species. Throughout the world, biologists recognize herring as a forage fish species that plays a critical function in maintaining the health of the world's ecosystems. The current regulation recognizes that "forage fish perform a critical role in the complex marine ecosystem by providing the transfer of energy from the primary and secondary producers to higher trophic levels." 5 AAC 39.212(b). Herring are forage fish that are prey to upper trophic level fish (salmon, groundfish, halibut and shellfish) as well as marine mammals and seabirds that Alaska Natives depend upon for subsistence. In addition, herring and herring eggs have been an integral part of the Native culture throughout the State of Alaska. The important role herring play in the marine food chain provides an important reason for considering a regulatory change to add Pacific herring to the State's Forage Fish Management Plan.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Julie Kitka, President  
Alaska Federation of Natives\

Cc: Sitka Tribe of Alaska

September 20, 2012

Via Facsimile: 907-465-6094

Board of Fisheries  
State of Alaska, Department  
of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Re: ACR 9, to be considered at October 9-11, 2012 Board Work Session

Dear Board Members:

The City and Borough of Yakutat hereby opposes Agenda Change Request (ACR) 9, which seeks to have the Board consider, out-of-cycle, a proposal amending 5 AAC 30.350(12) to close a portion of the lower Tsiu River to commercial salmon fishing, creating an exclusive zone for sport fishing use. ACR 9 does not meet the criteria, as established under 5 AAC 39.999, for consideration outside the Southeast/Yakutat Areas cycle. There is no fishery conservation purpose, the current regulation is not 'in error', and there is no 'unforeseen effect' on the fishery which requires immediate action. Furthermore, the proposal is clearly allocative in nature, and there is no new information for the Board to consider at this time, compelling or otherwise, since the Board's last consideration of this matter just six months ago. Accordingly, ACR 9 should be denied.

The Tsiu River is wholly within the borders of the Yakutat Borough. Commercial salmon fishing on the Tsiu River is conducted almost exclusively by local residents, and that fishery has long played a vital role in the area economy, including support of the Borough's sole fish plant. Sport fishing on the Tsiu River is open by regulation, and there are no time or area restrictions; in other words, one can fish the entire length of the river seven days a week. Sport fishing generally commences around the second week of August. Commercial fishing opens by emergency order in last August, generally around the 24<sup>th</sup>, once escapement is deemed sufficient, and has historically been limited to two 24-hour openings per week, with a day off in between.

ACR 9, submitted by a group identified as the 'Tsiu River Coalition', is identical in substance to Proposal 301, also submitted by the Tsiu River Coalition, which was considered by the Board at its March 2012 meeting in Ketchikan as part of the 2011/2012 Southeast/Yakutat Areas (All Finfish) meeting cycle. Proposal 301 would have closed a portion of the Tsiu River to commercial fishing by movement of the regulatory marker, specifically the lower 500 yards of the river and the area above 1½ miles upstream of that lower marker, for the benefit of sport fishermen. ACR 9 similarly asks for closure of a portion of the Tsiu to commercial fishing by movement of the regulatory marker and that "that space be set aside for the sport fishery." It does not identify the specific area proposed for closure; rather, it states that the area to be closed

Board of Fisheries  
September 20, 2012  
Page 2 of 3

would be as "determined by the Alaska Board of Fisheries". The effect of the request is however essentially the same – close a portion of the river to commercial fishing by moving the marker, setting it aside for the exclusive use of sport fishermen.

Proposal 301 was fully and extensively discussed, argued and vetted at the March, 2012 meeting. Ultimately, the Board denied the proposal. No new information is being submitted to the Board at this time, and no justification exists for taking the proposal up again, out-of-cycle, thereby jeopardizing reasonable opportunity for public participation. The importance of the regulatory cycle in the changing of fish and game regulations has been previously acknowledged by the Board. See, Joint Board Petition Policy, 5 AAC 96.625 (e):

The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize the importance of public participation in developing management regulations, and recognize that public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes. ...

Pursuant to regulation (5 AAC 39.999), the Board accepts agenda change requests only for a fishery conservation purpose (5 AAC 39.999(a)(1)(A)), to correct a regulatory error (5 AAC 39.999(a)(1)(B)), or to correct an unforeseen regulatory effect on the fishery (5 AAC 39.999(a)(1)(C)). Further, the Board does not grant agenda change requests that are "allocative in nature" absent "new information found by the board to be compelling". See, 5 AAC 39.999(a)(2). None of these justifications exist here.

First, ACR 9 is clearly allocative in nature, in that a portion of the Tsiu River would be closed for commercial fishing, thus restricting the commercial fishermen's participation in the fishery and potentially eliminating some boats from participation, and setting that area aside for sport fishing use. This was acknowledged in the ADF&G staff comments to Proposal 301:

The proposed movement of the Tsiu River regulatory marker is allocative.

See, Regional Information Report No. 1J12-01, page 88. Moreover, no "new information" exists here. "New information" means "new biologic information" from the ADF&G staff "indicating a biologic resource problem that needs to be addressed before the particular fishery is scheduled for consideration during the board's regulatory cycle." 1994 Op. (Inf.) Atty Gen. Alas. 105, pages 1, 2-3. No such information or documentation has been presented in this matter. The proponent's present claim that the request is not allocative because it "does not ask that fish be allocated or reallocated" misses the point. "Allocative" refers to decisions which divide a resource between competing groups or subgroups (see, e.g. State v. Herbert, 803 P.2d 863, 866 (Alaska 1990)), exactly what Proposal 301 would have done, and what ACR 9 is proposing here. In fact, the proponent of ACR 9 admitted the allocative effect of Proposal 301 when it alleged that the proposal was necessary to "fix" the alleged "biased allocation due to current

Board of Fisheries  
September 20, 2012  
Page 3 of 3

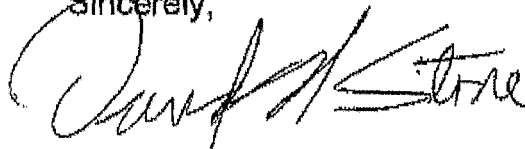
regulations." Proposal Index, February 24-March 4, 2012 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish, page 276.

Furthermore, none of the bases set out in subsections (a)(1)(A) through (C) apply here. The proponent of ACR 9 admits that there is no fishery conservation purpose or reason justifying the request under (a)(1)(A). Additionally, there is no 'error' in the current regulation. There is nothing incorrect or mistaken in the manner in which the regulation was written or has been implemented; in fact, there is no indication that the regulation is not working exactly as intended. ADF&G can and has moved the marker previously for conservation purposes, as it did in 2010, when it moved the marker approximately 2½ miles downstream, and again this year, when it temporarily moved the marker approximately 1 mile downstream. One cannot fairly describe a regulation as being 'in error' simply because it doesn't provide for a discretionary restriction which would be substantially beneficial to one select user group. Lastly, there are no 'unforeseen' circumstances which exist here, justifying an out-of-cycle request. The waters of the Tsiu River have always flowed through shifting sands in the lower stretch, shifting course from side to side, and lengthening and shortening the river in a short period of time. This is not unique to the Tsiu River and there is nothing 'unforeseen' presented here.

The proponent of ACR 9 claims that there is a "critical need" for the Board to immediately review the Tsiu River regulation, but points to no new information since the Board reviewed this regulation and decided the issue six months ago. The proponent clearly wants to have a second bite at the apple, out-of-cycle, perhaps hoping to have less public participation by commercial fishermen and others opposed to its attempt to reallocate a portion of the fishery and river to one user group. The sale price of fish and the cost of fuel have already severely limited the number of commercial fishermen on the Tsiu River. This further allocative measure is unnecessary, would gratuitously favor one user group to the detriment of another, and could decrease the economy of scale necessary for the commercial fishery in that area. Taking such a proposed measure out-of-cycle would be contrary to long-standing Board policy and would corrupt the public process. The City and Borough of Yakutat respectfully requests that ACR 9 be denied.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Stone  
Mayor

## ADAK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

September 24, 2012

ADF&G Board of Fisheries  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
(907) 465-6094 FAX

Re: ACR #7 an #8

Dear Chairman Karl Johnstone,

Adak Community Development Corporation (ACDC) is a non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting seafood harvesting and processing capacity in Adak.

We support scheduling consideration of the proposals in ACR7 & 8 in this cycle.

Historically, there was a large red crab fishery in the Adak area prior to the adoption of a federal Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for crab. The resource collapsed and no red crab fishery has been conducted under federal management the waters between 172W and 179W degrees longitude.

Given the lack of fishing history under the federal FMP in our Adak area, the waters east of 179W were deliberately left out of the federal Crab Rationalization catch share program. As such it is an open access fishery and the only effort controls are the vessel length and pot limits found in 5 AAC 34.600-690.

This poses a conservation problem that makes it difficult for ADF&G to contemplate opening a fishery in the area with a modest GHF. The only pot limit for Area O is a 250 pot limit for the Petrel Bank red crab fishery. The vessel length limit for the Adak region is 90 feet.

There were over 100 vessels between 60 and 90 feet licensed for pot gear in the 2011 CFEC database. With no further effort limitations on size and number of pots, it would be impossible for ADF&G to manage within the GHF on a slowly rebuilding red king crab stock in our area.

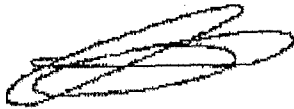
We believe there is enough resource for a small red king crab fishery, but it must be managed carefully with tight effort controls on vessel size and number of pots to avoid exceeding whatever GHF ADF&G sets in order to be sustainable.

Adak needs new fishing opportunities to have a viable fisheries dependant community. Setting up the management framework for a red king crab fishery in the Adak district within the 5 AAC 34 Section 600-690 is an important foundational step to providing that opportunity.

Setting effort controls in advance of an opening of a fishery that has been closed for decades doesn't re-allocate from anyone since there are no current participants with a dependence on the resource.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "dave fraser", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval scribble.

dave fraser  
Adak Community Development Corporation  
PO Box 1943  
Adak AK 99546



## SOUTHEAST HERRING CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



P.O. BOX 61  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Tel. No. 907-738-3509

September 24, 2012

### **Board of Fisheries**

#### **Re: Oppose ACR 1 – Inclusion of Herring in Forage Fish Management Plan**

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board Members;

ACR 1 does not meet the established board of fish criteria for consideration at the 2013 statewide meeting; more importantly it has no merit for adoption. In 1999, 5 AAC 39.212. Forage Fish Management Plan established nine marine fish families defined as forage fish which would be excluded from commercial fisheries. Herring and Pollack were two species intentionally not included, due to ongoing exemplary management systems and scientifically based data sets.

Board Criteria for an ACR and reasons to reject:

- a) Conservation concern – There is not a conservation concern. Togiak is booming; Sitka Sound herring have increased in biomass since the state began managing it in 1960. The increase biomass of the Sitka Sound herring has been dramatic, by a factor of ten. Once the 2012 data are analyzed it may show a decline in biomass from the 2011 biomass, but one year does not make a trend. To manage otherwise would result in many salmon fisheries being shut down on a regular basis.
- b) Correct an error – The Board of Fish did not make an error as suggested by the proposer, but rather the Board made a conscious decision to continue sustainable commercial fisheries on herring and Pollack. These are fisheries that communities from Nome to Kodiak to Ketchikan depend on for economic survival.
- c) Correct an effect unforeseen – what was unforeseen was how the Sitka Sound herring biomass would increase from 1999 – herring biomass has doubled in the intervening 13 years, Togiak herring biomass is even larger.

The proposer lists herring fisheries in southeast Alaska he claims are closed. The data show

something quite different. For example Seymour Canal is an active herring gillnet fishery, as is Hobart Bay; these are small herring stocks and fished only in years when the stock meets the minimum biomass threshold. Even Lynn Canal is showing an increase in biomass, although not to a level that allows a sustainable harvest and therefore it is not fished.

ACR 1 does not attain the minimum criteria for consideration at the 2013 board of fish meeting and therefore, should be addressed at the regular board cycle for 2015 southeast fin-fish issues. This is particularly the case since the proposal directs its criticism to southeast herring fisheries. The adoption of the proposal would affect not only southeast herring, but Togiak and Kodiak herring fisheries and communities. In addition, the implications of including herring and/or Pollack in the Forage Fish Management Plan, has far reaching consequences to the state of Alaska and its people. Please reject ACR 1.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve Reifentstahl  
Executive Director SHCA

Reference for Management Plan:

<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/folioproxy.asp?url=http://www.winu01.legis.state.ak.us/cgi-bin/folioisa.dll/aac/query={JUMP:'5+aac+39!2E212'}/doc/{@1}?firsthit>

**RECEIVED**  
**SEP 25 2012**  
**BOARDS**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Please accept the following comments for the ACR submitted by the Tsiu River Coalition.

Thank you,

Dan Ernhart  
Tsiu River Coalition  
PO Box 1403  
Cordova, AK 99574  
218-252-2337

---

Board of Fish,

I have visited and fished the Tsiu 9 times in the last 12 years. I have NEVER seen a uniformed wildlife or law enforcement person on or near the river. What I have seen is an ongoing major conflict between the commercial fishermen and the sport/ recreational fishermen. I personally have experienced a commercial fisherman trying to run me down with his boat while I was fishing in the river and then laughing as he came within inches of hitting me. The river is simply too small and shallow to safely allow both commercial and recreational fishing in the same sections of the river. The ONLY reasonable solution is to provide a section of the river for the days the commercial fishing occurs as opposed to giving the commercial fisheries unrestricted access from the mouth to the deadline. The commercial fishermen would catch as many fish especially if their section started at the mouth and the conflict between the two groups would be virtually eliminated. In addition a uniformed law enforcement official needs to be present on the river during the main fishing season to handle violations and enforce fishery regulations. Thank for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Bruce Bosch

---

Board of Fish,

I fished the Tsiu this year between September 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and personally witnessed, experienced, and photographed the grossly dysfunctional situation between sport and commercial fisherman on two separate days: Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. I confess that I was shocked and afraid for my personal safety, as jet boat operators regularly spun about me within a distance of only a few feet and nearly swamped my waders full of water. This is a very dangerous situation that the solution that you propose in your Agenda Change Request Form would completely alleviate. There is plenty of room for both the sport and commercial fisherman to co-exist on the Tsiu but separate areas must be established as a common sense solution.

Best regards,

Jim Conrad

3723 Brand Crest  
Encinitas, CA 92024-5505

---

Board of Fish,

As I have mentioned in previous correspondence, I have been coming to the Tsiu for a number of years and have experienced increasing conflict with the commercial fishermen, particularly with their practices of herding fish into their nets both with their boats and otherwise. These practices have forced me off the water on several occasions. I believe you were a witness to this happening to me last year.

We have been planning our trip later and later, hoping that the nets would be gone, or at least significantly diminished by the time we arrived. Frankly, If I continue to experience what happened last year I will seriously consider going else where.

I believe that there are enough fish (at least for now) to support both sport and commercial interests and I have no objection to commercial fishing per se, but it is clear to me from my personal experiences over the years that management of the river highly favors the commercial interests and that there is little enforcement of rules and regulations regarding conflicts by the Department of Fisheries. In order for the Tsiu to continue to be the quality fishery that it is will require more close supervision and management. The economic loss to the sport industry if this does not occur will be much greater to the state than any loss or restriction to the commercial industry.

James A. Perry  
3385 Country Club Dr. S.  
Salem, OR 97302.

---

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries:

I fully support the request to change your next agenda to include the Tsiu River issue. *The vote change at the last meeting of the Board was a horrible example of pressuring the board, and the problem has only remained. The vote change must be revisited to rectify the situation. A new vote is the only way to assure the public and the people who use this river that politics and pressure can not change a vote on a serious fisheries issue.*

As an Alaskan resident, I am quite aware of the fishery politics in this state and the commercial vs. sport problems. As a fisher of this small river for eight years, I have seen/been involved in these issues first hand.

The Tsiu River is a distillation of the problems of commercial vs. sport fishing in a tiny river. This river is so small, but so prolific that both commercial and sport can exist, but absolutely not in the same area. I have almost been run over several times by a running boat when it is going down the small channel or is herding fish. Not only does it disturb the fish where I am fishing, but my safety is severely threatened. I have never received an apology or a look of sorrow from a commercial fisherman. It is always a look of, "Get out of my way, I own this river."

I also have seen other clients from the lodge be really, really upset or scared after such confrontations.

Kate Sandberg  
Girdwood, Alaska

---

*Have reviewed the agenda change request and agree with its contents. I have personally seen the conflicts mentioned and agree that a new look at the existing rules are necessary*

*Roger Wendel*

---

Board of fish,

I support this agenda change by the Tsiu River Coalition.

I have personally experienced the commercial jet boats. They take away if not ruin the Alaskan fishing experience I was expecting and create unsafe conditions for the fisherman.

Chuck McConnell  
449 Meadow View Parkway  
Erie, CO 80516

---

Board of Fish,

I have read the subject document and am in full support. The solutions you have suggested whereby the commercial and sport fishermen can co-exist are certainly logical. I can tell you I have fished Cohos in numerous other places, and nowhere is there harassment by commercial fishermen like that on the Tsiu. For me it was equally bad both times I was there. With the fishing area being such a short distance regulations must be imposed ASAP.

Of the places I have Coho fished there is not even a close second to the Tsiu. It is a remarkable resource, arguably the greatest place on earth to sportfish for Cohos. It must be preserved for all parties involved. The only thing bad about fishing there is being constantly buzzed at close range by commercial fishing boats, and working around their nets. I do not plan to return to the Tsiu until I have a peaceful environment in which to cast.

Sincerely,

Mike Murry

13709 Three Fathoms Bank Dr. Corpus Christi, Tx. 78418

# Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

PO Box 232

Petersburg, AK 99833

Phone & Fax: 907.772.9323

pvoa@gci.net • www.pvoaonline.org

September 21, 2012

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Via Fax: (907) 465-6094

## **RE: BOARD OF FISHERIES 2012 ACR PROPOSALS**

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board Members,

PVOA is a diverse group of over 100 commercial fishermen and businesses operating primarily in Southeast Alaska. Our members provide millions of meals to the public annually by participating in a variety of fisheries statewide including salmon, herring, halibut, cod, crab, blackcod, shrimp, and dive fisheries. Many PVOA members are also active sport, personal use, and subsistence fishermen who depend on sustainable and conservative management of Alaska's fishing resources to ensure healthy fisheries for the future. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on 2012 Agenda Change Request (ACR) proposals that are being considered for the 2012-13 Board cycle.

**PVOA is opposed to ACR 1 and ACR 9 due to lack of meeting ACR criteria. A proposal meets the criteria if: a) For a fishery conservation purpose or reason, b) to correct an error in regulation, c) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted. PVOA urges further consideration of ACR 15.**

**ACR 1 – OPPOSE, Designate Pacific herring as a forage fish under the provisions of the Forage Fish Management Plan.** PVOA is opposed to this ACR request as it does not meet any of the three criteria. It is also unclear if the proposal is specifying herring in Southeast, Sitka Sound, or the entire State. At the 2012 Board of Fish finfish meeting in Ketchikan, the Board fully vetted and the Department thoroughly explained the status of Southeast's herring stocks. Herring, like many other species, have abundances that fluctuate on a cyclical basis. Abundance cycles fluctuate regardless of the presence of commercial harvest, and the State successfully manages numerous herring fisheries across Alaska and in Southeast. Although new information and better management tools

are continually utilized by the Department, this is an indicator that the Department is progressive and is committed to managing the herring fisheries with the best available information and science. Although claims that subsistence needs of herring roe are not being met in the Sitka area are due to commercial overharvest, subsistence harvesters could benefit by placing branches in high spawn areas prior to the first spawn. This proposal is highly allocative as adoption has the potential to close all commercial herring fishing. The merits of this proposal were fully vetted in the regular Board of Fish cycle in 2012, the proposal does not fix an error in regulation, and the proposal does not fix an unforeseen effect.

**ACR 9- OPPOSE, Modify the waters in the Tsiu River in the Yakutat Area that are closed to commercial salmon fishing to facilitate an orderly fishery for the commercial and sport fisheries.** By moving regulatory markers, this proposal is an allocative proposal that would damage Yakutat's primary economic driver, commercial fishing. It is important to ensure healthy commercial harvest based on sustainability in Yakutat, and the only processor in the community depends on multiple fisheries to keep their doors open. Salmon is more important than ever to Yakutat's processor as the downturn in catch limits for halibut and blackcod have impacted processing hours and income. This proposal does not meet ACR criteria as the merits of this proposal were fully vetted in the regular Board of Fish cycle in 2012, the proposal does not fix an error in regulation, and the proposal does not fix an unforeseen effect.

**ACR 15 - Change the Board of Fisheries' meeting schedule to move Pacific cod issues in the Alaska Peninsula – Aleutian Islands areas so as not to conflict with the commercial fisheries.** PVOA is in support of coordinating meetings around Alaska's fisheries in order to ensure that fishermen are allowed to participate in the regulatory process. We encourage the Board to review all meetings and determine if timing is appropriate. For example, the Southeast Finfish meeting consistently occurs when the majority of the multi-gear multi species fleet is participating in the Tanner and brown crab fishery. By moving the Southeast shellfish meeting to December and the finfish meeting to January, more fishermen would be allowed to participate in the Board of Fish process.

Thank you for your time and attention to ACR proposals. If we can provide further information or answer any questions as you review the ACRs, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Julianne', written in a cursive style.

Julianne Curry  
Director





## United Cook Inlet Drift Association

---

43961 K-Beach Road, Suite E • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 260-9436 • fax (907) 260-9438  
• info@ucida.org •

Date: September 19, 2012

Addressee: Board of Fisheries

RE: ACR Comments

Dear Board of Fisheries,

UCIDA makes the following comments regarding the ACRs that will be discussed at the Board Work Session, October 9-11, 2012.

ACR #1 No Comment at Present.

ACR #2 UCIDA opposes both this ACR and ACR #12.

ACR #3 No Comment at Present.

ACR #4 This ACR is highly allocative. UCIDA is totally opposed to the allocative aspects of this ACR and believe that these allocative issues should be taken up in the regular Cook Inlet meeting.

The escapement goal numbers, using the DIDSON Sonar, may need to be revised by the BOF as proposed in ACR #17.

ACR #5 No Comment at Present.

ACR #6 UCIDA is totally opposed to this ACR. There are habitat, allocation and water quality issues that should be discussed in a regular Cook Inlet meeting. There are no infrastructure facilities to support this ACR. If the BOF were to pass this ACR, there will be public health and safety issues.

- ACR #7 No Comment at Present.
- ACR #8 No Comment at Present.
- ACR #9 UCIDA understands that this is an allocative ACR and as such should not be taken up out of the normal BOF meeting cycle.
- ACR #10 UCIDA supports the discussion and possible designation of the early-run Kenai River King salmon being declared a Stock of Concern. This is a conservation or yield concern issue and we feel the BOF should act in some manner to conserve this stock. We view this as a conservation issue.
- ACR #11 This is a highly allocative proposal that should be discussed at a regular Cook Inlet meeting. The proposed actions were heard and discussed at the last regular Cook Inlet meeting. The BOF chose not to set escapement goal priorities between salmon producing systems.
- The BOF modified the times and areas for the Drift Fleet. This and the related allocation issues must be taken up in a regular BOF meeting cycle. There is no new information and no compelling reason to take up this ACR in isolation from all the allocative issues in Cook Inlet. The author makes some vague references “to other salmon species escapement goals.” What species, what escapement goals? This ACR is vague, highly allocative and opens up the entire management plan for all users.
- ACR #12 UCIDA opposes both this ACR and ACR #2.
- ACR #13 UCIDA supports this ACR. Many UCIDA members would like this superexclusive and exclusive registration be done away with.
- ACR #14 UCIDA is totally opposed to this ACR. This proposal is highly allocative among setnetters and other users. This ACR proposes to introduce a new untested, undemonstrated gear type and fishing technique to the highly allocated Cook Inlet salmon fishery.
- ACR #15 No Comment at Present.
- ACR #16 No Comment at Present.
- ACR #17 If legally necessary? UCIDA supports only changing the escapement goal to a new DIDSON sonar enumerated escapement goal. Provided ADF&G can present the scientific basis for the revised DISON sonar-based escapement goal. UCIDA supports using the best available science and would expect ADF&G to make data, conversion ratios, carrying capacity and rationale for the new DIDSON sonar-based escapement goal available for public/peer review.

ACR #18 It is appalling that nearly one-fourth of the Personal Use harvest permits are not returned. This 25% non-response rate is not tolerated with other Fish & Game permits!!!

Suggest that the non-responsive permit information be checked against the State's Permanent Fund Dividend registry. UCIDA understands that DNR, DEC and ADF&G compare permit information, including petition names, with the permanent fund registry.

ACR #19 UCIDA is neutral.

IF the BOF should take up this ACR, then UCIDA recommends that this definition apply to all users.

ACR #20 Highly allocative ACR, UCIDA believes that these matters and issues should be taken up in a regular BOF Cook Inlet meeting. The new DIDSON sonar-based escapement goal could be changed if the BOF were to take up ACR #17 and leave all the highly allocative issues contained in ACR #4 and in ACR #20 to a regular Cook Inlet BOF meeting.

ACR #21 UCIDA is opposed to this ACR. We believe that the Legislature is the appropriate body to clarify Commissioner's authority and not the BOF. Both the BOF and Commissioner derive legal authority from the Legislature, not each other. Leave this ACR for Legislative review.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed Document*

Roland Maw, PhD  
UCIDA Executive Director

ams



IN REPLY REFER TO

# United States Department of the Interior

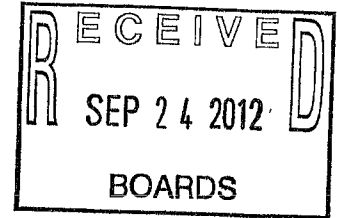
## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FWS/OSM12072.GP

SEP 24 2012



Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone:

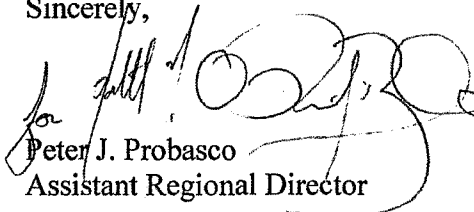
The Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) will consider 21 Agenda Change Requests, among other issues, at its work session beginning October 9, 2012.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), working with other Federal agencies, has reviewed these requests and do not believe that adoption of any of these requests will have an impact on Federal subsistence users and fisheries.

We may wish to comment on other specific agenda items if issues arise during the meeting which may have an impact on Federal subsistence users and fisheries. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to working with your Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on these issues.

If you have questions, you may contact George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management, at (907) 786-3822

Sincerely,

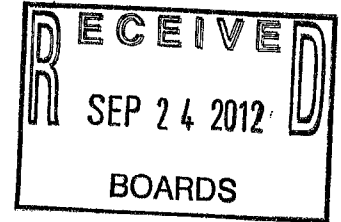
  
Peter J. Probasco  
Assistant Regional Director

CC: Cora Campbell, ADF&G  
Tim Towarak, Chair FSB  
Jeff Regnart, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Hazel Nelson, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Charles Swanton, ADF&G, Juneau  
Monica Wellard, ADF&G, Juneau

Jennifer Yuhas, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Drew Crawford, ADF&G Anchorage  
Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, OSM  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record



**Edward Rabinowe  
Big Meadow Farm  
34201 Big Meadow Lane  
Deer Island, OR 97054**



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526


Dear sirs:

I ask you to consider the attached Agenda Change Request and urge you to act positively to hear this case again this winter. The Tsiu River Coalition is working for the best interests of all users of the Tsiu river and also the fish. Changes need to be made.

We need changes to protect one of the worlds unique salmon fishing rivers. The volume of fish in so short a river is quite special. I have fished the Tsiu for over 20 years and look forward to 20 more. I need your help to make that happen. The river needs your help to continue to attract all legitimate users.

This is an opportunity to improve one of Nature's gems.

Thank you,

  
Edward Rabinowe

Re:  
ACR 9

September 25, 2012

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

To the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing in regards to the Board of Fisheries advisory committees we have here in Alaska. I have only attended the Sitka Advisory meeting twice in the last 15 years for obvious reasons. This particular Advisory board here in Sitka has always been slanted towards a different group of people pending the topics to be taken up at the next board cycle.

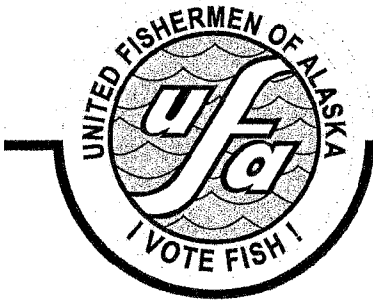
My complaint is that during this last cycle here in Southeast I attended an Advisory meeting here in Sitka on December 8, 2011. I am a gillnetter and I went to this meeting to see what the feeling was on a certain proposal that would have curtailed troll effort on coho salmon allowing for better escapement, and to have the burden shared by all users. Knowing full well what to expect going into this meeting I really wasn't prepared by the actual make up of this advisory committee. There were about nine members on the committee and seven of them had either a power troll and or a hand troll permits. And one was a deckhand on a power troller.

During the meetings in Ketchikan that following spring it was often brought to the Board of Fisheries attention on how the Sitka Advisory committee voted on particular proposals, mostly troll proposals because Sitka is a very active troll community. What I ask of the Board of Fish is to have all members of Local Advisory groups sign a conflict of interest statement so at least the Board of Fish can see the actual make up of these committees. It would be nice if these conflict of interest statement could be on page one of the Advisory Committee reports to the Board of Fisheries.

Best Regards,

Richard I Eliason jr.  
Sitka

# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA



**Mailing Address:** PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

**Physical Address:** 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

**Phone:** (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

**Email:** ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

September 25, 2012

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

**RE: ACR Proposal Comments – Proposals 1, 4, and 9.**

Dear Board of Fisheries Members,

We oppose the following proposals 1, 4, and 9, on the basis that they do not meet the ACR criteria for acceptance and consideration during the 2012-13 Board cycle.

**ACR 1: Oppose** - this proposal would designate herring as a forage fish under the provisions of the Forage Fish Policy.

We do not feel that this proposal meets any of the three required criteria.

We do not see a fishery conservation concern; this is not an error in regulation; and we do not feel there is an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when current regulations were adopted. We consider the proposal to be allocative in expected effects of restricting long established commercial herring fisheries.

The few continuing large scale commercial harvests may be subject to fluctuations in harvest volume due to many factors, but the Sitka Sac roe fishery has been under close scrutiny by the Board of Fisheries and Federal Subsistence processes, and estimates of herring biomass continue to be healthy. The Southeast herring fisheries were discussed extensively during last Board of Fish cycle. The issues that this proposal attempts to address have ramifications across other fisheries, and are best addressed through the Board's regular cycle.

**ACR 4: Oppose** – Modify the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan in the Cook Inlet area. This proposal is allocative in nature. The wide range of potential effects on multiple fisheries that are inherent in this open ended adjustment to the current management plan calls for taking this up in the regular cycle. We urge the Board to let the special task force called for by the Governor and Department of Fish and Game convene and provide an opportunity for assessment of the situation, rather than adopt this ACR and proceed with long term changes based on short term information.

**ACR 9: Oppose** – Modify the waters in the Tsui River in Yakutat that are closed to commercial salmon fishing to facilitate an orderly fishery for the commercial and sport fisheries.

This proposal does not meet the criteria for an agenda change request. The proposal is strictly about allocation as the Tsui has met the escapement goals for 37 out of 38 years and the request is for spatial separation between sport and commercial users. We do not see a fishery conservation concern, there is not an error in regulation, and we do not feel there is an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when current regulations were adopted. This concept was addressed in this year's regular Board of Fisheries cycle, and while the proposal's authors do not agree with the decision that the Board ultimately made, we do not see this as justification for taking up the issue again, outside of the regular Board cycle. We note that in the absence of a conservation concern and the remote rural demographic, the affected commercial fishery participants should not be expected to bear the costs of participation of this re-hashing of this proposal, outside of the normal Board cycle.

UFA opposes the arbitrary displacement of longstanding fisheries to carve out exclusive areas for tourism fisheries. We recommend that the Board of Fisheries embrace tourism growth under the premise that it should fit in with existing prior uses, rather than to seek to displace them, as a general development philosophy, in the best interest of all Alaskans.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. Thank you for your service on the Board, and for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Mark Vinsel  
Executive Director



## Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

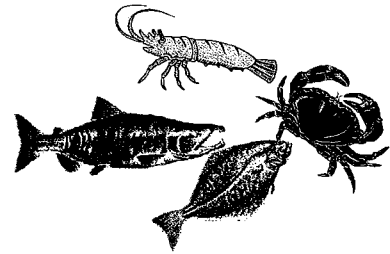
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907-586-6652

Fax: 907-523-1168

Email: [seafa@gci.net](mailto:seafa@gci.net)

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



September 20, 2012

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Boards Support Section

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

RE: ACR Proposal Comments

Dear Board of Fish Members,

Please accept our comments on the following Agenda Change Request (ACR) proposals. Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is a multi-gear/multi-species non-profit membership organization representing our 300+ members involved in salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast, Yakutat, Cordova and Gulf of Alaska.

We oppose the following proposals on the grounds that they do not meet the ACR criteria for acceptance and consideration during the 2012-13 Board of Fish cycle.

*ACR 1: Oppose - this proposal would designate herring as a forage fish under the provisions of the Forage Fish Policy.*

This is a proposal that could easily wait until the appropriate Board of Fish cycle to be submitted. There is no emergency, this proposal's intent to shut down all Southeast Commercial herring fisheries which is very allocative. Based on the ACR criteria allocative proposals are not to be considered unless compelling new information is available. The Southeast herring fisheries were discussed quite extensively during the previous Board of Fish cycle and the forage policy was mentioned during the committee process. This proposal according to the author addresses conservation

issues but does not state within the proposal how adoption of this proposal would benefit the conservation of the herring species. Yes the weight of halibut at age has changed but there is no known science that even starts to point to herring as a factor and therefore the weight at age of halibut should not be considered an unforeseen effect of a regulation that needs to be considered out of cycle. This regulation has been in effect since 1999 and therefore also does not justify and out of cycle consideration as an error in regulation.

*ACR 9: Oppose - Modify the waters in the Tsui River in Yakutat that are closed to commercial salmon fishing to facilitate an orderly fishery for the commercial and sport fisheries.*

This proposal does not meet the criteria for an agenda change request. The proposal is strictly about allocation as the Tsui has met the escapement goals for 37 out of 38 years and the request is for spatial separation between sport and commercial users. In a phone conversation (9/20/12) with ADFG there were not any official complaints during the 2012 season through Sept 19<sup>th</sup> from a sport fisherman about incidents between the two users groups and ADFG and enforcement were monitoring the area looking for conflicts. This proposal is similar in scope to the debate, and reconsideration of the Board of Fish proposal from last year on this issue. Going through the criteria for acceptance of an ACR we would offer the following comments: (A) The author of this proposal did not have a *conservation purpose* for this proposal; (B) A reason was listed to *correct an error in regulation* but all the information provided was on the record about the changing river and it's course by ADFG last year. In addition, if you asked the Dept to determine the location of the ADFG marker each year you would be asking the Dept to violate their mandate to not allocate between users, the very reason the placement of the marker was put in regulation as a static location. (C) A reason was also listed under the section to *correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted*. Any unforeseen effects caused by the shifting of the River had the opportunity to be considered when the Board of Fish has debated previous proposals dealing with this issue. We therefore don't think that this proposal meets the criteria for acceptance as an ACR proposal since it is allocative, the issue has been debated during the normal Board of Fish cycle (winter 2012) and does not meet the justification of new information to be considered outside

of the normal board of fish cycle when participants of the fisheries would be unavailable to participate.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments regarding these proposals. If you have any additional questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact us at any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen  
Executive Director

Attention: Board of Fish Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811  
Fax: 907-465-6094

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

Dear Alaska Board of Fish Members,

Thank you for this chance to comment on the submitted 2012 Agenda Change Requests. The 2012 Cook Inlet Salmon season was a struggle for many. Upper Cook Inlet Eastside Setnetters lost nearly 95% of their fishing season during an above average Kenai Sockeye return due to below average Chinook abundance. While we have no wish to see another season as disastrous for our industry as 2012, we believe that the negative effects of a period of low Chinook abundance would only be compounded by reactionary modifications to the current Chinook management plans.

While many restrictive steps were implemented during the 2012 season to achieve Chinook Salmon escapement goals, it is clear that much of the disorder and inequality in harvest opportunity this year came not from the respective management plans, but rather from the inability of ADF&G to accurately enumerate Kenai River Chinook salmon escapement and correctly identify the later than average timing of the 2012 Late Run. As outlined in ADF&G's September 17, 2012 memorandum; "Kenai River King Salmon Target Strength Equivalent Escapement Estimates", and in RC7 released in 2011, the lack of accuracy in current counting methods coupled with low confidence in prior counting methods dictates that ACR17 is necessary and prudent. It is imperative that new King Salmon escapement goals are established and new enumeration methods be proposed, publically reviewed, and implemented before the 2013 season.

The Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries directs the department to provide the board, at regular meetings, with reports on the status of salmon stocks to identify any salmon stocks that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation.

#### Levels of Concern (5 AAC 39.222)

- **"Yield Concern"** Means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above a stock's escapement needs; a yield concern is less severe than a management concern, which is less severe than a conservation concern.
- **"Management Concern"** Means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the SEG, BEG, OEG, or other specified management objectives for the fishery; a management concern is not as severe as a conservation concern.
- **"Conservation Concern"** Means concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a stock above a sustained escapement threshold (SET); a conservation concern is more severe than a management concern.
- **"Chronic inability"** Means the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species.
- **"Stock of Concern"** Means a stock of salmon for which there is a yield, management, or conservation concern.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game has issued NO levels of Concern for the Kenai River Late Run Chinook. Kenai River Late Run Chinook salmon escapement goals have been achieved for 4 out of the last 5 years using the enumeration methods employed during those seasons. Any retrospective evaluation of these goals highlights weaknesses in enumeration methods, not the management plan.

There are 3 very specific criteria that need to be met for the BOF to take up an Agenda Change Request. (5 AAC 39.999)

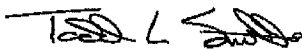
1. **For a fishery conservation purpose or reason-** As stated above there is NO conservation concern on the Kenai River.
2. **To correct an error in regulation-** Alaska Department of Fish and Game has submitted ACR 17 to modify Kenai River Late-Run Chinook escapement goals.
3. **To correct an unforeseen effect of a regulation-** King salmon were in low abundance across the State of Alaska in 2012. The current Kenai River Later Run Chinook management plan clearly specifies the restrictive measures to be taken if escapement goals are not projected, and as in nearly all previous years, the actions outlined in the plan enabled current escapement goals to be achieved. Therefore there were no unforeseen effects of a regulation.

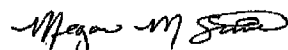
While we agree that the current Kenai River Late Run Chinook management plan needs to be updated regarding escapement goals, all other attempts to change methods of harvest (ACR 14), set specific dates for the department to take specific actions (ACR20), or rewrite the management plan due to a perceived great "conservation concern", or inequality in harvest allocation (ACR4,) are superfluous and do not meet the Agenda Change Request requirements set forth by this board.


As members of the user group most negatively impacted by the current issues surrounding below average Kenai River Chinook Salmon abundance, we ask that the Board accept only ACR17 for out-of-cycle consideration.

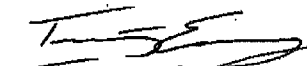
Respectfully submitted,


Eastside Setnetters

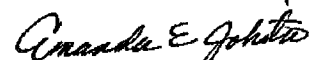
  
Todd L. Smith

  
Megan M. Smith

  
Sarah A. Hudkins

  
Travis Every

  
Amber Every

  
Amanda E. Johnston

For information regarding these comments, please contact  
Todd Smith (907) 252-1309, or by email [aktodd@live.com](mailto:aktodd@live.com)

Comment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries regarding Agenda Change Request 15.

I am writing in support of ACR 15, that I submitted in response to talks with fishermen in Sand Point and King Cove. The problem cited in ACR 15, a conflict for fishermen who need to participate in the February/March Pacific cod fishery, but also want to participate in the Board of Fish public process addressing that that fishery, is a real problem.

The previously published Board of Fish schedule had the South Alaska Peninsula PCod issues addressed after the October work session. AEB PCod fishermen were satisfied with that scheduling, and would welcome a return to that scheme.

A reworked schedule that addresses SAP PCod at any time other than the January/February/March period would be preferred to the current conflicted schedule. The stated solution in ACR 15 is not the only way to address the problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this ACR.

Ernie Weiss  
September 25, 2012

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

September 21, 2012

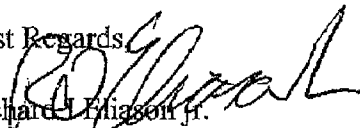
To the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing in regards to the Board of Fisheries advisory committees we have here in Alaska. I have only attended the Sitka Advisory meeting twice in the last 15 years for obvious reasons. This particular Advisory board here in Sitka has always been slanted towards a different group of people pending the topics to be taken up at the next board cycle.

My complaint is that during this last cycle here in Southeast I attended an Advisory meeting here in Sitka on December 8, 2011. I am a gillnetter and I went to this meeting to see what the feeling was on a certain proposal that would have curtailed troll effort on coho salmon allowing for better escapement, and to have the burden shared by all users. Knowing full well what to expect going into this meeting I really wasn't prepared by the actual make up of this advisory committee. There were about nine members on the committee and seven of them had either a power troll and or a hand troll permits. And one was a deckhand on a power troller.

During the meetings in Ketchikan that following spring it was often brought to the Board of Fisheries attention on how the Sitka Advisory committee voted on particular proposals, mostly troll proposals because Sitka is a very active troll community. What I ask of the Board of Fish is to have all members of Local Advisory groups sign a conflict of interest statement so at least the Board of Fish can see the actual make up of these committees. It would be nice if these conflict of interest statement could be on page one of the Advisory Committee reports to the Board of Fisheries.

Best Regards

  
Richard L. Eliason Jr.  
Sitka



Sitka Tribe of Alaska  
456 Katlian Street  
Sitka, Alaska  
Office - 907-747-3207  
Fax - 907-747-4915

**Sitka Tribe of Alaska  
Tribal Council Resolution  
2012-113**

**RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS**

**Support for the Agenda Change Request (ACR) submitted to the Board of Fish that would add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's forage fish management plan.**

WHEREAS, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the federally recognized tribal government for more than 4,100 enrolled tribal citizens in Sitka, Alaska organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the responsible for the health, welfare, safety and culture of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasi*) are considered an ecological and cultural keystone species; and

WHEREAS, throughout the world biologist recognize herring as a forage fish species that play a crucial function in maintaining the health worlds ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's Board of Fish recognizes that, "forage fish perform a critical role in the complex marine ecosystem by providing the transfer of energy from the primary and secondary producers to higher trophic levels" (5 AAC 39.212(b)); and

WHEREAS, herring are forage fish that are prey to upper trophic level fish and marine mammals that Alaska Natives depend upon for subsistence; and

WHEREAS, herring and herring eggs have been an integral part of the Native culture throughout the State of Alaska since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has failed acknowledge herring as a forage fish by listing Pacific herring under its forage fish management plan (5 ACC 39.212); and


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, that in recognition of the crucial role herring play in the marine ecosystem and the Native culture of Alaska, the Sitka Tribal Council fully supports the ACR to have herring added to the State's forage fish management plan.**



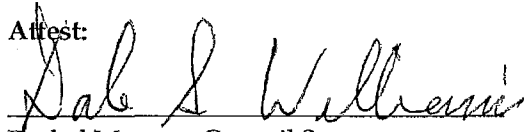
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called and convened meeting of the Tribal Council of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska held on September 19, 2012, at which a quorum was present by a vote of 7 IN FAVOR, \_\_\_ AGAINST, \_\_\_ ABSTAIN, 2 ABSENT.

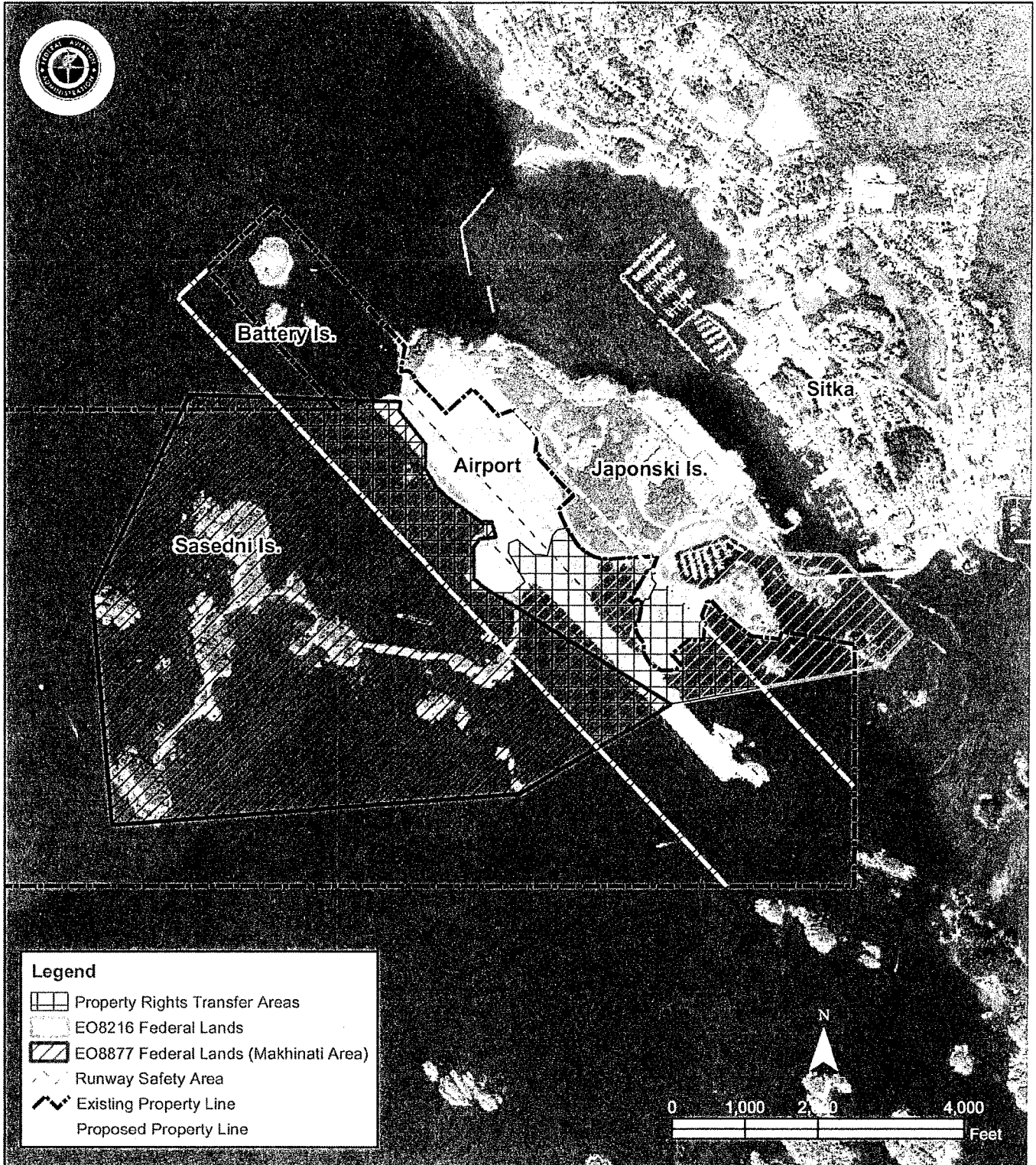
Signed:

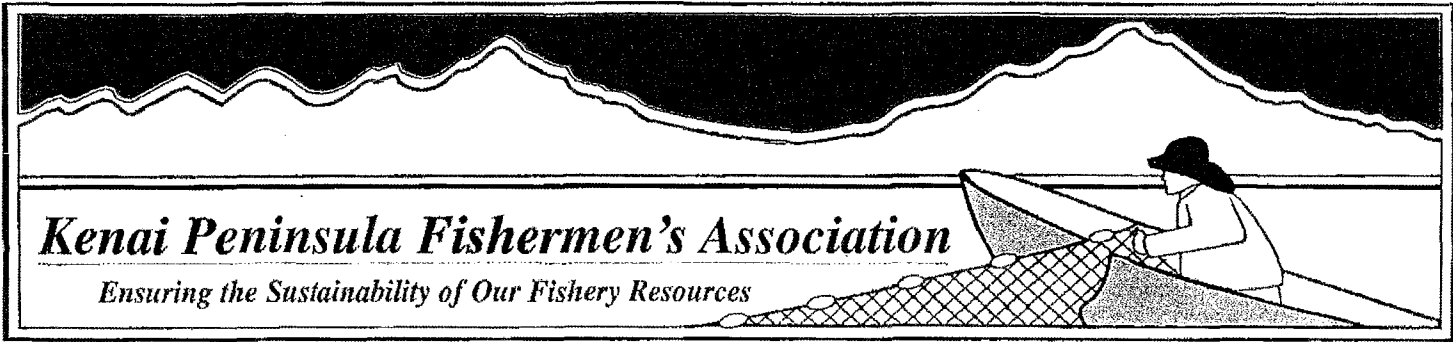
  
Lawrence A. Widmark, Council Chairman

Attest:

  
Rachel Moreno, Council Secretary

*acting Secretary  
Vice Chairman*





43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276  
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

September 23, 2012

Attention:

Karl Johnstone  
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Board Support Section  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Ak. 99811-5526

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

Chairman,

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA) has been a commercial fishing advocacy group since 1954. Primarily comprised of setnet salmon limited entry permit holders, we also include other Cook Inlet (CI) gear types, crewmembers, fish processors, local businesses and general interest in our membership.

KPFA is very aware of the commercial fisheries resource disaster declaration announcement from the Acting Secretary of Commerce, Rebecca M. Blank dated September 12, 2012. We are also aware of the efforts of Governor Sean Parnell in requesting financial assistance (letters dated July 14 and August 16) to mitigate the severe restrictions created by the apparent less abundant than average returns of King Salmon to the CI region.

We are anxious as are other users to ensure that the magnitude of the past management restrictions are in fact warranted; and to develop viable solutions that ensure a reasonable expectation of sustainability while maintaining a reasonable opportunity to harvest all available salmon stocks in a historical manner.

We would advise the Board to strictly adhere to the policy that establishes criteria for an Agenda Change Request (ACR). Considering that we are just a year away from addressing proposals in cycle for a CI regulatory meeting, we believe that redundancy would not improve the Boards decisions and would in fact hinder the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) ability to properly gather information and produce peer

reviewed reports in a timely manner. Clearly, it will be a challenge for the Department to complete a proper evaluation, analysis and review of a DIDSON based escapement goal in a timely manner before the 2013 salmon season. The Board should concentrate on establishing a clear regulation that sets a reasonable, predictable goal range that has the potential of reaching sustainable returns considering regional and area trends.

To date, many of the numbers are in question including the enumeration methods that have not been proven with a high degree of confidence by the science community or the user groups. It is our immediate assessment that the only conclusion to be made from the 2012 King Salmon returns is that we do not have a clear view of what the 'true biological' escapement number is for Late Run Kenai Kings.

We offer these recommendations:

ACR 17

The KPFA Board of Directors approve of this ADF&G proposal in so far as it attempts to establish a predictable goal range that is based on the best available science. This will be a challenge for the Department, stakeholders and the public for proper and necessary interaction with assessing the validity and practicable application of this sustainable escapement goal (SEG).

By definition in 5 AAC 39.222 *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* (SSFP) under;

(f) (36) a definition of an SEG requires a known sustainable yield estimate over a 5 to 10 year period. This estimate must be *scientifically defensible* and expressed in a *range* or above the level of a *lower bound* SEG. A *lower bound* SEG goal must be above an SET.

Further, 5 AAC 39.223 *Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals* under;

- (a) ...The purpose of this policy is to establish the concepts, criteria, and procedures for establishing and modifying salmon escapement goals and to establish a process that facilitates public review of allocative issues associated with escapement goals.
- (b) (4) establish sustained escapement thresholds (SET) as provided in... (the SSFP).
- (b) (7) prepare a scientific analysis with supporting data whenever a new BEG, SEG, or SET, or a modification to an existing BEG, SEG, or SET is proposed and, in its discretion, to conduct independent peer reviews of its BEG, SEG, and SET analyses;
- (b) (8) notify the public whenever a new BEG, SEG, or SET is established or an existing BEG, SEG, or SET is modified;
- (b) (9) whenever allocative impacts arise from any management actions necessary to achieve a new or modified BEG, SEG or SET, report to the board on a schedule that conforms, to the extent practicable, to the board's regular cycle of consideration of area regulatory proposals so that it can address allocation issues.

Clearly, a high degree of accountability must be the mission to ensure adherence to the above provisions.

In 5AAC 57.163 *Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan* the Department refers to an OEG but does not state what these goals will be. We question what the State has in mind for establishing an OEG for the Kasilof runs of King Salmon. This statement of need should to be clarified. We would request that the ADF&G and the BOF remain compliant to the policy and guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 39.223.

#### ACR 4

We absolutely oppose this ACR, we do not think that it complies with 5 AAC 39.99 *Policy for changing board agenda.*

(a) (1) (A) The Department is tasked with establishing proper evaluative techniques to implement escapement goals for sustainability. For several years prior to 2012, minimum in-river goals have been met with using the best available indices at that time which have adhered to the 5 AAC 21.359 *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (b) The department shall manage the late run of Kenai River salmon to achieve a biological escapement goal of 17,800 – 35,700, ...

Clearly, the past enumerative methods have indicated compliance to the goal range. In addition, the harvest of Kenai River bound King Salmon by the East Side Set Nets (ESSN) or the in-river fisheries in the past decade have been within the historical ranges. In reviewing the harvest records, it would appear that we have established sustainability over several years as abundance levels have varied from year to year. We understand the variable nature of spawner to return ratios but by all historic indicators, a ratio of 3 returns for each spawner has been the accepted goal for Kenai River Late Run King Salmon management strategies.

We do not believe that this 2012 event warrants a conservation concern as defined in regulation. It is our intent to allow the Department to establish an improved goal as the first step to sustainable management, we then encourage the BOF to allow the regulatory process to move forward with the regular CI cycled meeting proposals format for 2014.

(a) (1) (B) We do not see an error in regulation; as the discussion of the deliberative information at the time this regulation was adopted considered the range of time; as one that would protect the majority of the run of King Salmon while allowing a range of harvest by all user groups. The majority of the Kings returning are in the River by July 31<sup>st</sup> and by all historic indicators Kings continue to enter the system at a lower abundance rate than in prior years. This discussion is better addressed by the authority of the Commissioner to adjust to dynamic anomalies rather than to use the static rules of the BOF.

Step down plans are a part of the established regulatory process. The BOF needs to be informed as well as the public to changes that effect in season management tools of; time, area, methods and means. Many of these changes requested in this proposal are allocative in nature and require the full Board process. We review this justification as a 'knee jerk reaction'.

Inaccuracies in this ACR request further the need for accountability that only the ADF&G staff can provide. Many analysis and reports that are several years in draft form are not yet available. Decisions based on erroneous or incomplete data sets will yield incomplete and non-functional regulatory decisions. This ACR's justification stresses a need to re-allocate and discuss burden sharing based on allocation not sustainability policies. The 2012, season while egregious has resulted in a DIDSON indicator of more spawners than the previous years. **This does not warrant a review of a regulatory error.**

(a) (1) (C) The Department of Fish and Game had stated that because of the low returns of King Salmon in past years in many areas of the State and the average returns for the prior year in CI that they reacted with early restrictions to comply with the 'precautionary principle'. It is obvious that the Commissioner's authority can properly manage for inseason abundance levels.

The Department using the best technology available in August with data derived from the ESSN King Salmon tagging studies had a strong indicator of returning Upper CI Kings by late July early August. Clearly, rates of DIDSON raw numbers and mixture numbers indicated a higher abundance level. Escapement levels of DIDSON units far exceeded the BEG regulatory goal and therefore would exceed the previous split beam goal range.

There is no unforeseen situation here and the authors continue to ask for allocative changes that do not address biological considerations. Without proper consideration of all management plans, goals and policies that a regular cycled meeting can address, this ACR would amount to an incomplete regulatory decision.

(a) (2) *the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information found by the board to be compelling...* This Agenda Change Request is a 'wolf in sheep's clothing'. It is apparent by the denial of this groups petition to the Board that they are against the authority of the Commissioner and the ADF&G's staff to accomplish there directive of sustainability using their Emergency Order inseason authority. The BOF should not alter its regulatory cycle to deal with a predominately allocative agenda. We do recommend that all issues be addressed at the proper time and proper place with all consideration to the Department, the Board of Fisheries and the public.

ACR 18

5AAC 77.015 *Personal use fishing permits and reports and display of personal use fish*

(d) KPFA opposes this request only in regards to the criteria for establishing an ACR. We would encourage the submission as a proposal in the regular cycled CI meeting schedule. This is an enforcement issue and should be discussed with Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement. Our concern is primarily for the need of statistical data and for an orderly fishery where all participants have an equal opportunity by the enforcement of rules and regulations. This is an issue that will be better served by Personal Use (PU) participants participating in the regularly scheduled regulatory process.

KPFA Board Directors and members will be present at the October 9-10, 2012 BOF worksession to discuss and clarify any of these stated positions or other ACR's and correspondence directed to the Chairman.

Thank you,

The Kenai Peninsula Board of Directors

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

RECEIVED

SEP 25 2012

State of Alaska, Board of Fisheries, Letter of Support for ACR for Proposal to Include Pacific Herring to the State Forage Fish Management Plan

On behalf of myself as a fisheries biologist, my family and community, I am writing in support of an agenda change to include the proposal put forth to add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. This proposal meets the guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 39.999:

- 1) for a fishery conservation purpose or reason; or
- 2) to correct an error in regulation; or
- 3) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

An agenda change is important for a fishery conservation purpose because of many concerns. Under current management practices Pacific herring are being over harvested without concern for the needs of the overall ecosystem. The fact that Pacific herring are an undisputed forage fish but are not on the State of Alaska Forage Fish Management Plan is enough to boggle the mind. When added to the forage fish management plan, the state would have to manage the Herring Fisheries more conservatively by taking the ecosystem and all its dependency for herring into account. The State must acknowledge that Pacific Herring are a forage fish, include them in the Forage Fish Management Plan, and move to a more conservative way of harvesting roe. Waiting to the next board cycle may be too late. This is a proposal that needs to be addressed out of cycle.

Just this September 2012, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced that the king salmon fisheries in the major Alaska watersheds have been declared failures. "The reason for the poor returns remains unknown but researchers continue to suspect ocean factor," said Robert Clark, Alaska's chief sport fish scientist. "...This time around in looks like there's a real statewide downturn and that leads you to the idea that it's probably something in the early marine environment or something in the marine environment itself." Excerpt from The Seattle Times, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. As a fisheries biologist, I know that salmon leave their freshwater systems just in time to feed on the newly hatched herring in the spring and continue to feed on the herring throughout their lives. The health of our salmon stocks is directly linked to the health of Pacific herring throughout the Pacific herring's life cycle. Removing thousands of tons of forage fish and their potential spawn of 20,000 eggs per female from the environment is depleting our other economically important fisheries and taking food out of the mouths of other marine mammals and marine birds.

The king salmon fisheries are not the only fisheries to have declines. Halibut stocks are down throughout the state. Lingcod and non-pelagic rockfish have been a management nightmare because of conservation concerns.



September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012

According to the State of Washington's Forage Fish Management Plan, "many species of **BOARDS** feed on forage fish. Major predators of herring include Pacific cod (42% of diet), whiting (32%), lingcod (71%), halibut (53%), coho (58%) and Chinook salmon (58%), (Environment Canada 1994)." The Management Plan goes on to include the need of seabirds and marine mammals. The Forage Fish Management Plan I am referring to was adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission in 1998, <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00195/wdfw00195.pdf>, so why hasn't the state of Alaska included Pacific herring in their Forage Fish Management Plan before now. This leads me to the second guideline for an agenda request (b) to correct an error in regulation.

This proposal should be reviewed out of cycle to correct an error in regulation. Pacific herring have been left out of the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan since its inception. Whether this was an oversight or purposeful it needs to be corrected. Pacific herring are listed as forage fish and managed as forage fish throughout the coastal states of the U.S. and around the world. Pacific herring are an undisputed species of forage fish recognized by fisheries biologist, fisheries researchers, fisheries managers, and governments around the world. The fact that they are not included in the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan needs to be addressed.

And lastly, this proposal needs to be heard out of cycle to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted. The Pacific herring fisheries, specifically the sac roe fisheries, are affecting the overall health of the salmon, halibut, lingcod, rockfish, and cod fisheries throughout the state. These higher trophic species are dependent on the abundance of forage fish they have available throughout their life cycle. When the Forage Fish Management Plan was written this was understood, however, Pacific herring were not included in the list of forage fish to be covered in the management plan. This was an oversight and needs to be corrected. Forage fish, including Pacific herring, are essential for the health and value of all the State's fisheries; whether it be sport, commercial, personnel use, or subsistence, and as such need to be managed accordingly.

Thank you,

Heather Riggs

Fisheries Biologist

907-738-0320

[ocean\\_fair@yahoo.com](mailto:ocean_fair@yahoo.com)

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

References:

Bargmann, G. 1998. "Forage Fish Management Plan: A plan for managing the forage fish resources and fisheries of Washington." Washington Fish and Wildlife, Olympia.

Environment Canada, 1994. Sustaining marine resources, Pacific herring stocks. Technical Supplement 94-5.

"Commerce secretary declares Alaska salmon disaster" The Seattle Times, By Dan Joling, September 13, 2012.

Alaska Board of Fish Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and game  
Board Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811  
Fax: 907-465-6094

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2009  
BOARDS

The purpose of this correspondence is to forward my support for an amendment to ACR 14. Although "Selective Harvest Modules" may be a viable method of harvesting Sockeye salmon while reducing the harvest of Chinook salmon, I believe that this thought process should be expanded to allow for submission of proposed harvest methods to Fish and Game for consideration as a test fishery. This proposal, as written, is very limited in the scope of harvest methods and could delay, through the regulatory process, a better idea of harvesting Sockeye with minimal impact to Chinook salmon. An amendment to this ACR could provide a process for an individual or group to submit to Fish and Game alternative harvest methods that could be reviewed by appropriate parties, noticed to the public for comment, permitted, and then tested.

Although the Board of Fish would have the ultimate approval for any new gear type, this would give fisherman an avenue to present gear options and refine and test the harvest method before final consideration by the Board. This amendment does not advocate for a particular harvest method, only a process to test harvest methods for viability.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brian Gabriel Sr.

2305 Watergate Way  
Kenai, AK 99611  
gabriel1@alaska.net  
907-690-2089



**Alaska Outdoor Council**  
and  
**Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund**



310 K Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907) 264-6645, Fax (907) 264-6602

E-mail: [aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org](mailto:aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org)

Website: [www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org](http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org)

RECEIVED

SEP 25 2012

September 19, 2012

BOARDS

Boards Support Section  
ADF&G  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**RE: Alaska Board of Fisheries October Work Session - Agenda Change Requests #11**

To: Karl Johnstone, Chair

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) is a statewide non-profit organization that has advocated for conservation of publicly owned renewable resources in Alaska since before statehood. AOC represents 52 member Clubs and 3,000 individual Alaskans for a total membership of 10,000+ Alaskans.

While AS 44.62.270 of the Administrative Procedure Act makes it state policy to find that emergencies rarely exist that warrant an Agenda Change Request (ACR) to the Alaska Board of Fisheries AOC believes that ACR #11 raises to that exception.

Repeated years of salmon escapement failures in the Northern District of Cook Inlet are unacceptable and contrary to the constitutional intent of Article VIII, Section 2 General Authority of the Alaska State Constitution, as well as state statute Sec. 16.05.251. Regulations of the Board of fisheries and game;

(a) The Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable in accordance with AS 44.62(Administrative Procedure Act) for

(12) regulating commercial, sport, guided sport, subsistence, and personal use fishing as needed for the conservation, development, and utilization of fisheries;

The Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan in the Cook Inlet Area adopted by the AK Board of Fisheries has failed to achieve the minimal escapements necessary to meet the conservation needs of salmon resources in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet. In turn a shortage of returning salmon year after year negatively affects the sustainability of other valuable renewable resources in the drainage.

Consistent with the Alaska State Constitution Alaska statute 16.05.221(a) makes it clear;  
"The Alaska Board of Fisheries was created by the Alaska Legislature for the purpose of conservation and development of the fishery resources to the state."

AOC recommends that the Board of Fisheries except emergency ACR #11 to modify the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan in the Cook Inlet Area. ADF&G staff has shown that they are incapable of rectifying the shortage of salmon returns to the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet under the current board adopted management plan. Meeting escapement goals is the responsibility of the AK Board of Fisheries.

Corrective action by the board to rectify the lack of conservation of salmon stocks returning to drainages in Upper Cook Inlet is favorable to the cost and time delay that litigation would entail.

Respectfully,

Rod Arno, Executive Director  
Alaska Outdoor Council

Public Comment #23

Gregory R. Gabriel, Jr.  
F/V Miss Michelle  
P.O. Box 3392  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811

VIA FAX 907-465-6094

September 25, 2012

RE: ACR 13

Dear Board Members:

The purpose of this letter is to urge the Board of Fisheries to take up Agenda Change Request 13 and consider the merits at the December Statewide finfish meeting. ACR 13 meets the criteria for an ACR because the increasing federal quota may affect the jig fisheries not currently harvesting their GHL, by leaving even more GHL on the table or rolled over to other sectors.

Additionally, in any given year, only one area will be in cycle to be heard on this issue, meaning that unless this issue is heard piecemeal, at some point it must be heard out of cycle. This year the South Peninsula cod issues are in cycle, and there is an ACR to move those proposals to the December meeting so the fleet can participate in the Board process and not forego fishing time in March.

Finally, after discussing this issue with ADF&G groundfish staff in Kodiak, it sounds as though the proposal will not cause management difficulties, and a solution may be as simple as changing the date on which the fisheries may become non-exclusive from October 30<sup>th</sup>, to an earlier date.

Thank you for considering this request.

  
Gregory R. Gabriel, Jr.

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2012  
BOARDS

# Add Herring to the Forage Fish Mangement Plan

Sponsored by: Aaron Bean Sitka Alaska 99835

## About the petition

To the Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone: I support any regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) as a forage fish, and to be managed as such. The existing administrative code (5 AAC 39.212.) fails to include all species of forage fish indigeneous to the waters of Alaska, and Pacific herring are a keystone species. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustain healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Mangement Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the State of Alaska's Pacific herring stocks.

## Signatures

1. Name: Heather Riggs on Aug 03, 2012  
Comments: Absolutely

---

2. Name: Bryan Whitson on Aug 03, 2012  
Comments: I live in Sitka, Alaska and have seen first hand how depleted the herring returns have been due to overfishing and how the industry benefits a very small percentage of those who live here.

---

3. Name: Jeff Feldpausch on Aug 03, 2012  
Comments:

---

4. Name: Kathleen Wendt on Aug 05, 2012  
Comments:

---

5. Name: Kathryn Jensen on Aug 05, 2012  
Comments:

---

6. Name: Daven Hafey on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments: In a state which prides itself on sound fisheries management, it should be obvious that our fisheries are not sustainable if we continue to harvest herring at current rates. Please acknowledge herring's critical role in our fisheries systems and manage it accordingly. Lots of communities, subsistence fishermen, commercial fishermen, and sport fishermen in Alaska are depending on you to make the right decision.

---

7. Name: Karen Johnson on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments: As a lifelong commercial fisher from Sitka I find it perplexing why herring are not considered to be a forage fish, I guess I just assumed they always were, this needs to be changed now.

---

8. Name: Michael D. Bricker on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments:

---

9. Name: Michael Baines on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments:

---

10. Name: Heather Chapin on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments:

---

11. Name: Jerry Snelling on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments:

---

12. Name: Ted Wright on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments: In complete agreement and believe this action is critical to the health of many fisheries, not to mention our way of life!

---

13. Name: Rebecca Fritz on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments:

---

14. Name: Kay Simmons on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments: Please honor this request for all species of fish, and those of us who consume it as a way of life.

---

15. Name: Katherine Rusler-Davis on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments: I lived in Stika, Ak. forover 5yrs, and know that it is very important to protect all of the forage fish. It is the 1st step in preserveing the Culture of an indigenous people.

16. Name: Rebecca Bentley on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments:
- 
17. Name: Carla Carrico on Aug 06, 2012  
Comments:
- 
18. Name: Margo Waring on Aug 07, 2012  
Comments:
- 
19. Name: Tina Brown on Aug 07, 2012  
Comments:
- 
20. Name: Josh Lawrence on Aug 07, 2012  
Comments: stop over fishing the herring or all other fish will die within a few short years, it will happen like a domino effect
- 
21. Name: Chad Titell on Aug 07, 2012  
Comments:
- 
22. Name: Anonymous on Aug 07, 2012  
Comments:
- 
23. Name: Marian Allen on Aug 07, 2012  
Comments:
- 
24. Name: Jessica Gill on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments:
- 
25. Name: Jordana Hazam on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments:
- 
26. Name: Sarah Smith on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments:
- 
27. Name: Ernestine Hayes on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments:
- 
28. Name: Tommy Joseph on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments:
- 
29. Name: Tom Gamble on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments: save the herring
- 
30. Name: Charles Miyasato on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments: LONG OVER DUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- 
31. Name: John H. Littlefield on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments:
- 
32. Name: Andra Martin on Aug 09, 2012  
Comments:
- 
33. Name: Randy Katzenmeyer on Aug 10, 2012  
Comments:
- 
34. Name: Frederick O. Olsen, Jr. on Aug 10, 2012



Comments: Gee, this is Sooo obvious. If you don't think herring are fundamental as food to ocean mammals and other fish, you need to read better books.

---

35. Name: Brandon Snyder on Aug 10, 2012  
Comments:

---

36. Name: Sean Smith on Aug 10, 2012  
Comments:

---

37. Name: Ernestine Hanlon Abel on Aug 10, 2012  
Comments:

---

38. Name: Tanya Bonorden on Aug 11, 2012  
Comments:

---

39. Name: Douglas C. Bartels on Aug 13, 2012  
Comments:

---

40. Name: Margaret Nickerson on Aug 17, 2012  
Comments: So right!

---

41. Name: Matt Love on Aug 17, 2012  
Comments:

---

42. Name: Margaret Nickerson on Aug 23, 2012  
Comments: Yes, do please add-on the Pacific herring

---

43. Name: Delice Calcote on Aug 27, 2012  
Comments: thanks you for adding herring as a forage fish to the Forage Fish Management Plan.

---

44. Name: Louise C Brady on Aug 27, 2012  
Comments:

---

45. Name: Fred Moe on Aug 28, 2012  
Comments:

---

46. Name: Jerrod Galanin on Aug 29, 2012  
Comments: ADF&G don't understand herring behavior and their Eco system

---

47. Name: Richard Didrickson on Aug 29, 2012  
Comments:

---

48. Name: Michael Bricker on Aug 30, 2012  
Comments:

---

49. Name: Kitty Wilson on Sep 06, 2012  
Comments:

---

50. Name: Tino Sam on Sep 08, 2012  
Comments:

---

51. Name: Kara Koreis on Sep 08, 2012  
Comments:

---

52. Name: Caitlin Gill on Sep 08, 2012

Comments:

---

53. Name: Kate Brunswig on Sep 08, 2012  
Comments:

---

54. Name: Rose Dobbs on Sep 08, 2012  
Comments: Please add Pacific herring to the Alaska's Forage Fish Mangement Plan.

---

55. Name: Pam Frenzel on Sep 08, 2012  
Comments:

---

56. Name: Patrick Gill on Sep 08, 2012  
Comments: It's time!

---

57. Name: Kim Elliot on Sep 16, 2012  
Comments: I support this concept and will be sending in some comments of my own soon.

---

58. Name: Anonymous on Sep 18, 2012  
Comments:

---

59. Name: Thomas Gill on Sep 18, 2012  
Comments:

---

60. Name: Rose Dobbs on Sep 19, 2012  
Comments: Please add Pacific herring to the Stat of Alaska's Forage Fish Mangement Plan.

---

61. Name: Maryann Dobbs on Sep 19, 2012  
Comments:

---

### Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Robert A. Johnson Date: 9-24-12  
POB 21661

Address: JUNEAU AK 99802-1661

Phone: 907-988-6025

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name:  *Tristan Guevin* Date: 9/24/12

Address: PO Box 6235 Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: 738-4490

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Galadriel Morales Date: 9/24/12

Address: 3408-B HPR

Phone: 7-8478

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Amy Skis Date: 9-24-12

Address: 4790 Halibut Point Road Sitka AK  
99835

Phone: 907-747-4700

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Jackie DeBell Date: 9-24-12

Address: 104 Barlow St, Apt B

Phone: 738-6225

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: JERKI MCGRAW Date: 9-24-12

Address: 1619 5th Ave #9

Phone: 907-747-3335



## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: JAMES JOHN NIELSER JR. Date: Sept 24 2012

Address: P.O BOX 1753

Phone: 907 623 7233 C HOME 907 747 5478

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Mary B Paley Date: 8-24-12

Address: 200 Jeff Davis Sitka

Phone: 907 623-0842

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Melvin J. Danville Date: 9/24/12

Address: 1715 Sawmill Ck # B Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: (907) 738-2148

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Charles Wm. Bingham III Date: 08/25/2012  
*Charles W. Bingham III*

Address: 404 Etolin Way, Apt No 1 Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone: 907-738-8875

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Scott Harris Date: 9/14/2012

Address: 1815 Edgecombe Dr Sitka

Phone: 907 747-5790

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Constance N. Mazon Date: Sep 18, 2012

Address: 1255 W 9th 102 Juneau AK 99801

Phone: 907 635 4083

Constance N. Mazon Sep 18, 2012

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Wes H. Lawson Date: 8-30-12

Address: 411-a Verstopia St., Sitka, AK.

Phone: 907-747-6903

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Sam Petro Date: 9/6

Address: 107 Rudolph walton

Phone: 907-623-7352





## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name:

Patrick M H Bousquet

Date:

8/24/2012

Address:

101 Haven Lane #1 Sitka Alaska

Phone:

907)747-3239

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Natalie K. Howard Date: 9/12/12

Address: 409 Spruce Str. Apt. 3

Phone: 907-738-0624

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Jasha Folsom Date: 9/14/12

Address: 3205 HPR Sitka, AK

Phone: 738-7733

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Camille Ferguson *Camille Ferguson* Date: 8/29/12

Address: 3880 Halibut Point Road

Phone: 738-2102

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Ellen Littlefield Date: 8/30/17

Address: 1104 H.P.R. #7, SITKA, AK

Phone: 907-747-3320

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Christi Stalkfleet Date: Aug 29, 12

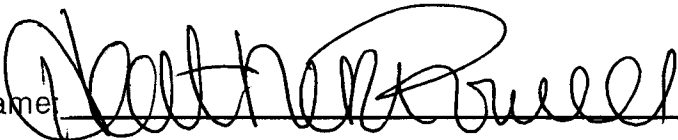
Address: 203 Jeff Davis St

Phone: 738 2674

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name:  Date: 8/28/12

Address: 618 Merrill St.

Phone: 747-5088

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Ronald James Date: 8/30/12

Address: 447 VERSTOVIA AVE

Phone: 907-747-6231



## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Jolene Rodriguez Date: 8-31-12

Address: P.O. Box 1753 Sitka

Phone: 907-738-1214

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Melina R. Duive Date: 8/30/12

Address: 418 Kaagwaantaan St

Phone: 738-2275

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Boyd Oshikawa Date: Aug 30-12

Address: 215 KOGWANTON  
CELL 738-5857

Phone: 747-5857

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Kelly King Date: 8-30-2012

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Robert G. Sawyer Date: 9-4-12

Address: 105 A Apt #1 Spruce Grove

Phone: (907) 623-7382

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Enca Marie Kovacs Date: 9/4/2012

Address: P.O. Box 6217 Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: 907-738-2434

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Destiny Charles Date: 9/4/12

Address: Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: 623-7083

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Frank Jimmy Date: 9/4/12

Address: Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: 738-8061



## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Catherine Wilson Date: 8-31-12

Address: 311 4th St Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: 618 420 0560

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Chester Miyasato Jr Date: 8-31-12

Address: 3307 HALIBUT POINT ROAD #3

Phone: (907) 738-2967

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Lois Wilford Date: 8/24/2012

Address: 444 Katlian St.

Phone: 907-738-3664

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: John Barndok Date: 08-24-2012

Address: PO Box 6368

Phone: 907 752 7075

6

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

24 Aug 12

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BX 3183 Sidka

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

738-7189

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Donald C. Didrickson Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 361 Koburanta St - Sitka

Phone: 747-6034

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Johnny W Duncan Sr Date: 9-18-12

Address: 110 Andrew Hope St  
Sitka AK 99835

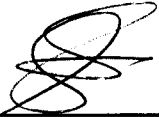
Phone: 907-738-5540

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/18/2012

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

A-4  
617 Kathleen St., Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

907-747-8592



## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Sarah Zepher Date: 9-18-12

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 907-747-7293

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: Jacob Mudd Date: Sept. 21, 2012

Address: 2451 Wilson Church Rd Caneyville Ky 42721

Phone: 270-589-0030

## Petition to Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan

To the Alaska State Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone,

I support the regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. The existing administrative code (5AAC 39.212) fails to include all species of forage fish indigenous to the waters of Alaska. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustaining healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Herring are an ecological keystone prey species for many finfish populations, marine mammals, and terrestrial and marine birds. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the existence of herring stocks throughout the State of Alaska.

Name: FAYE ADAMS - EATON Date: 21/09/12

Address: 2451 WILSON CHURCH RD, CANEVILLE, KY

Phone: 917 602 4046

**Support for agenda change request to include the proposal to add Pacific herring, *Clupea pallasii*, to Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan, Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 39.212.**

As a concerned citizen and fisheries biologist, I have to voice my support for the out of cycle request to include the proposal to add Pacific herring, *Clupea pallasii*, to Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan. This proposal falls under Alaska Administrative Code 5 AAC 39.212. This agenda change request (ACR) meets the criteria set forth by the Board of Fisheries in 5 AAC 39.999 for an out of cycle request:

- 1) For a fishery conservation purpose or reason; or
- 2) To correct an error in regulation; or
- 3) To correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

I am supporting this ACR because of the impacts the management of Pacific herring has on the community as well as the ecosystem need to be addressed quickly.

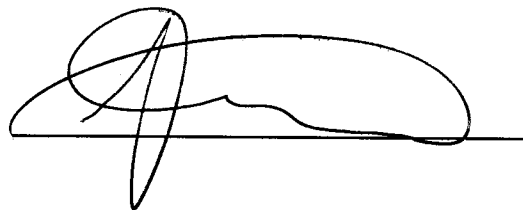
The conservation of forage fish, in particular Pacific herring, is important ecologically and culturally to the State of Alaska. Pacific herring are predated upon by marine mammals, seabirds, groundfish (ADF&G, 1985), salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*), and Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) (Bargmann, 1998). Pacific herring link multiple trophic levels, thus becoming a keystone species and affecting trophic levels above and below (Pikitch et al. 2012). The conservation of Pacific herring allows for the conservation of predator species, potentially increasing stocks of commercially valuable species such as salmon and halibut.

In correcting an error in regulation, this ACR meets the criteria due to the omission of Pacific herring from the Forage Fish Management Plan. Pacific herring are considered worldwide a forage fish, with characteristics similar to the other forage fish include in the Forage Fish Management Plan. According to Pikitch et al. (2012), a forage fish is defined by a small body size, rapid growth, schooling behavior, and strong population responses to environmental variability. Pacific herring have these characteristics in common with the other forage fish species listed on the Forage Fish Management Plan, including, but not limited to, eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), capelin (*Mallotus villosus*), Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*), gunnels (family Pholidae), pricklebacks (family Stichaeidae), and krill (order Euphausiacea) (Pikitch et al. 2012). This ACR will have the ability to correct an out of date and erroneous regulation.

When the Forage Fish Management Plan was put into action, the effects of the plan were unforeseen on other fisheries. Courcelles (2011) found that from the 1970s to present, Pacific halibut in both U.S. and Canadian waters have experienced a reduction in length-at-age. This change is thought to be related to the quality and abundance of prey (Courcelles 2011) including Pacific herring. The reduction of length-at-age of Pacific halibut was an unforeseen effect of the failure to add Pacific herring to the Forage Fish Management Plan.

The agenda change request to include the proposal to add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan needs to be addressed quickly. Because Pacific herring are such an important link the food web (Pikitch et al. 2012) the addition of them onto the Forage Fish Management Plan is crucial to the health of the ecosystems in which they live, as well as the health of the species that depend on them.

**Jessica A. Gill**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica A. Gill', written over a horizontal line.

References Cited:

- ADF&G. 1985. Alaska Habitat Management Guide, Southcentral Region, Volume 1: Life Histories and Habitat Requirements of Fish and Wildlife. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat, Juneau.
- Bargmann, G. 1998. Forage Fish Management Plan: A plan for managing the forage fish resources and fisheries of Washington. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia.
- Courcelles, D. 2011. Re-evaluation of the length-weight relationship of Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*). International Pacific Halibut Commission, Seattle.
- Pikitch, E., Boersma, P.D., Boyd, I.L., Conover, D.O., Cury, P., Essington, T., Heppell, S.S., Houde, E.D., Mangel, M., Pauly, D., Plagányi, É., Sainsbury, K., and Steneck, R.S. 2012. Little Fish, Big Impact: Managing a Crucial Link in Ocean Food Webs. Lenfest Ocean Program. Washington, DC. 108 pp.

## PETITION: Add Pacific Herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Mangement Plan

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries

To the Board of Fisheries through Chairman Johnstone:

I support any regulatory change that would add Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) as a forage fish, and to be managed as such. The existing administrative code (5 AAC 39.212.) fails to include all species of forage fish indigeneous to the waters of Alaska, and Pacific herring are a keystone species. The board recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are crucial to sustain healthy populations of commercially important salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish species. Please add Pacific herring to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Mangement Plan. Failure to do so will compromise the State of Alaska's Pacific herring stocks.

### 40 SIGNATURES

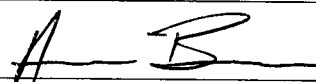

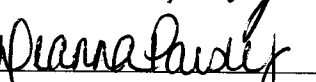
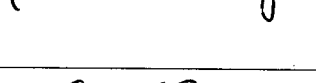

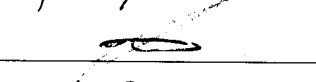

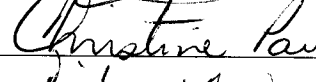
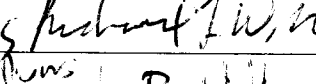
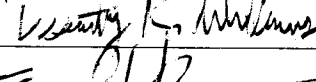

	NAME	COUNTRY	POSTAL CODE	DATE SIGNED
1	Aaron D Bean	United States	99835	Sep 09, 2012
2	Melissa Cervera-Bean	United States	99835	Sep 09, 2012
3	Sarah Moore	United States	56288	Sep 09, 2012
4	Dan W. Beer	United States	99705	Sep 09, 2012
5	Aubrey Gamble	United States	94309	Sep 09, 2012
6	Laura Bagley Mallula	United States	99835	Sep 09, 2012
7	Helen Dangel	United States	99835	Sep 09, 2012
8	David Harrison	United States	99508	Sep 09, 2012
9	Laura Lubich Bommarito Clauder	United States	63129	Sep 09, 2012
10	Elizabeth Green	United States	97303	Sep 09, 2012
11	Holly Foss	United States	81147	Sep 09, 2012
12	Melissa Bella	United States	83687	Sep 09, 2012
13	Carl Benston	United States	00025	Sep 09, 2012
14	patricia j tonkin	United States	99835	Sep 09, 2012
15	Heather Bremner	United States	99835	Sep 09, 2012
16	Sue Keene	United States	99925	Sep 09, 2012
17	Eric Morales	United States	99835	Sep 09, 2012
18	Kerry Roy	United States	77339	Sep 09, 2012
19	David Kitka	United States	99835	Sep 10, 2012
20	Dana Benton	United States	99835	Sep 10, 2012
21	Johnny Duncan Jr	United States	99835	Sep 11, 2012
22	Sonny Cropley	United States	99835	Sep 12, 2012
23	Douglas Bartels	United States	99835	Sep 14, 2012
24	Traci Washausen	United States	99835	Sep 15, 2012
25	Coburn Della	United States	99950-0340	Sep 16, 2012
26	Robert Young	United States	99654	Sep 16, 2012



	NAME	COUNTRY	POSTAL CODE	DATE SIGNED
27	Kim White	United States	97007	Sep 16, 2012
28	Alicia Ford	United States	97016	Sep 16, 2012
29	Rett Morgan Adair	United States	99623	Sep 16, 2012
30	Bernadette Allen	United States	97023	Sep 17, 2012
31	Kitty Wilson	United States	99835	Sep 17, 2012
32	Joseph Wilson	United States	62901	Sep 17, 2012
33	Aj Wilkinson	United States	47711	Sep 17, 2012
34	Frederick O. Olsen, Jr.	United States	99950	Sep 17, 2012
35	Sheila DeLapp	United States	80033	Sep 17, 2012
36	Rob Yates	United States	98284	Sep 18, 2012
37	Kayla Gray	United States	30721	Sep 18, 2012
38	Jode K Wortman	United States	98644	Sep 18, 2012
39	Melodie Bernatis	United States	80102	Sep 18, 2012
40	Brenda Lyons	United States	53563	Sep 19, 2012

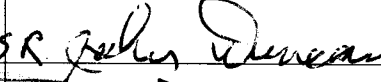
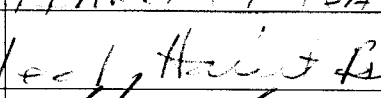
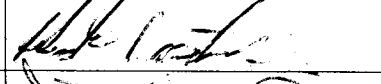
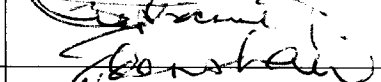
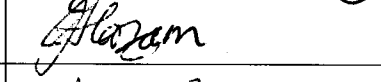
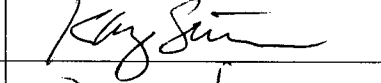
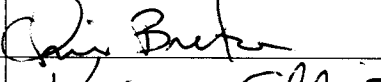
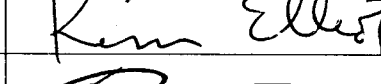
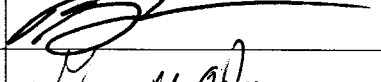
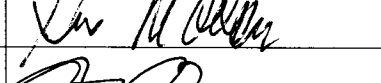
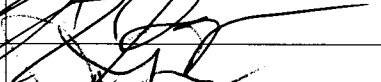

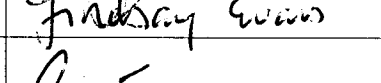

# Petition to Alaska Board of Fisheries

<b>Petition summary and background</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>forage</i></p> <p>The State of Alaska's existing <del>Forage</del> <sup>Forage</sup> Fish Management Plan does not include Pacific Herring. Undoubtedly, Pacific Herring <i>Clupea pallasii</i> are a keystone species in Alaska and the board already recognizes that abundant populations of forage fish are necessary to sustain healthy populations of commercially important species of salmon, groundfish, halibut, and shellfish.</p>
<b>Action petitioned for</b>	<p>We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Alaska Board of Fisheries to act now to add Pacific Herring to the current Forage Fish Management Plan (5 AAC 39.212)</p>

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Aaron Bean		115 New Archangel St, Sitka AK	(907) 738-2092	5/15/12
Chester Miyasato Jr		3307 HALIBUT Point Road #3	907 738-2967	5/15/12
Dianna Parsly		1011 Monastery St		5/15/12
<del>Dianna Parsly</del>	<del></del>	112 Lance Dr.	752-7043	5-15-12
Les Teterud		456 Kattla St	747-7382	5-15-12
Ted Wright		192 S.W. 351 Sitka, AK	907-738-7455	5/15/12
Kathy Erickson		203 Crabapple Dr. Sitka AK <sup>99833</sup>	907-747-6479	5/15/12
Christine Paul		4766 HPR	907-747-5332	5/15/12
MICHAEL L. WILLIAMS		502 Monastery St	738-9445	5/15/12
<del>Michael L. Williams</del>	<del></del>	502 Monastery St.	738-0536	5/15/12
Patrick M. Beatty		101 Haven Lane #1	738 7430	5/15/12

60

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Seremy Willistein	Jeremy Willistein	115 Granite Creek Rd	(907) 738-7382	5-14-12
Phillip Nielsen	Phillip Nielsen	717 Biowaka St	(907) 738-0865	5-15-12
Kevin Skanes	Kevin Skanes	3516 HPR	738-8010	5/15/12
Mike Sullivan	Mike Sullivan	407 Hemlock st Apt B	738-2870	5/15/12
MIKE WEST	Mike West	209 CEDAR BEACH	738-4812	5-15-12
Heath Bone	Heath Bone	203 Cedar Beach	738 5405	5-15-12
Nathanial Bean	Nathanial Bean	708 S.stad street	738-4902	5/15/12
PATRICK M BENSER Patrick M Benser	Patrick M Benser	708 Suetrad St,	623-0356	5/15/12
PRENDA BEAN	Prennda Bean	708 Suetrad St	623-0356	5/15/12
REN VAN VEEN	Ren Van Veen	104 charlie Joseph st	738-5651	5/15/12
Timothy Hoyt	Timothy Hoyt	311 Cascade St	747-9801	5-15-12
William A. Stortz	William A. Stortz	215 Observatory St	747-5916	5/15/12
Victor Littlefield	Victor Littlefield	103 Littlefield Way	747 - 7466	5/15/12
AL WILSON	Al Wilson	PO Box 597 SITKA	907 747 5165	5/15/12
Martha Moses	Martha Moses	POB 6142 SITKA	738-1275	5/15/12
Chel Tizell	Chel Tizell	112 W. ...	738-1035	5/15/12

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
John Duncanson		110 Andrew Hwy St Sitka AK 99835		5-15-12
<del>Harriet Pollock</del>	<del>Harriet Pollock</del>			
HARRIET Pollock		1710 Edgewood Sitka AK		5-15-12
Wade Martin		321 MONTAGARY ST APT 1		
STEPHANIE EDENSHAW		4111 Marine St. #1 76153		5/15/12
JORDANA HAZAM-GAMBLE		111 Granite Creek Rd		5/15/12
Kay Simmons		Box 6272 Sitka		5/15/12
Chris Brewster		7 McKowick St Sitka		15 MAY 12
Kim Elliot		"		5/15/12
Tom Crumble		Box 1934, Sitka, AK 99835	Save the herring	5/15/12
Gus Adams		500 De Groot St " "		5/15/12
GERRY HOPE		235 KATLAN SUITE A SITKA AK 99835	ANB	"
Jay Light		404 Lake St.	Hubert Stand Storford	Reduction (Horzee)
Jindsay Evans		PO Box 2546 Sitka AK 99835		5-15-12
Jay Erie		P.O. Box 1126, Sitka, AK.		

--	--	--	--	--

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Jack Lorrigan	<i>Jack Lorrigan</i>	P.O. Box 1371 Sitka		5/15/12
Michael Baines	<i>Michael Baines</i>	PO Box 821 Baines Sitka		5/15/12
Paula Jureno	<i>Paula Jureno</i>	PO Box 2075 Sitka, AK		5/15/12
Andrew Roberts	<i>Andrew Roberts</i>	PO Box 2075 Sitka AK		5/15/12
Richard Nelson	<i>Richard Nelson</i>	PO Box 2808 Sitka, AK		5/15/12
John Murray	<i>John Murray</i>	224 OBSERVATORY ST		5/15/11
MARLA GRAVES	<i>Marla Graves</i>	605 BIRKEN ST. #4		5/15/12
Lawrence Widmark	<i>Lawrence Widmark</i>	444 KATHIE ST. SITKA		5/15/12
Joe Joseph	<i>Joe Joseph</i>	620 merrill st		5/15/12
Heather Meuret-Weddy	<i>Heather Meuret-Weddy</i>	5 Maksoutoff St. Sitka		5/15/12
Dave Williams	<i>Dave Williams</i>	200 SIRSTAD	Shot Down Fishery	5/15/12
Jolene Kothig	<i>Jolene Kothig</i>	P.O. Box 1753 Sitka		
Scott Brulinski	<i>Scott Brulinski</i>	709 BIRKEN ST, SITKA		5-15-12
Lillian Feldpausch	<i>Lillian Feldpausch</i>	200 SIRSTAD SITKA		5/15/12


Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Ronald Lighter	Ronald Lighter	Box KXA KAGAWAN	Close Fishery to START AN ENVIRO	5/15/12
Signe Wilson	M Signe Wilson	P.O. Box 597, Sitka	Phase 7 use support Subsystem	
Kim ELLIOT	Kim Elliot	7 MAKSOOTOFF ST SITKA, AK	Close Herring fishery	5/15/12

**Attention: Board of Fish Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau Alaska 99811  
Fax: 907 465 6094**

**September 25, 2012**

Dear Alaska Board of Fish Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Agenda Change Requests that you will consider at your October work session. We are a family set net operation that endured the loss of our 2012 fishing season due to management decisions made in reaction to the low abundance of Kenai River late run Chinook. While we cringe to think of the possibility of going through a similar season in 2013, we would hate to see the crisis exacerbated by hasty changes to the current Chinook management plan in reaction to what occurred last summer.

The unintended consequences of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's 2012 in-season management decisions including, unequal harvest opportunity, unequal conservation burden, impacts on northern district runs and over-escapement of Kenai River late-run sockeye occurred not because of flaws in the management plan, but due to the department's inability to accurately count Kenai River late run Chinook.

New Chinook escapement goals must be established, and new accurate and dependable enumeration methods must be proposed, reviewed and implemented in time for the 2013 season. This makes consideration of ACR 17 a priority in our minds.

Regarding ACR 4, ACR 14 and ACR 20, none meet the Board's criteria for out-of-cycle agenda change requests and they should be rejected for out-of-cycle consideration.

- There is no conservation concern regarding the Kenai River Late Run Chinook. ADF&G has issued no levels of concern regarding the late Chinook run. In fact, escapement goals have been met four of the last five years.
- The only error in regulation regarding the Kenai River Late Run Chinook will be corrected by the implementation of ACR 17. Again, we support consideration of ACR17.
- The Late Run Chinook plan stipulates actions to be taken when shortfalls in escapement goals are projected. Those actions have enabled the department to achieve its escapement goals with few if any exceptions; therefore there are no unforeseen effects of regulation.

Questions regarding the accuracy of counting methods used to meet those escapement goals can only be evaluated when a new enumeration method is established. If

shortcomings are found they will be addressed by ACR 17. Attempts to change harvest methods (ACR 14), establishing specific dates for specific actions (ACR 20), and the call to rewrite the management plan to address a "conservation concern" and inequality in harvest allocation (ACR4), are unjustified by your own criteria, and unnecessary.

In addition, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell is assembling a task force of scientists to look into Alaska's Chinook crisis. We think it would be premature to make out-of-cycle changes to the Kenai River Late Run Chinook management plan when the potential for new and substantive information regarding plight of Alaska's Chinook likely will be brought to light in time for the regular cycle meeting in 2014.

We hope you will accept only ACR 17 for out-of-cycle consideration in regard to Kenai River Late Run King Salmon management.

Thank you,

*Melissa DeV Vaughn Hall*  
Melissa DeV Vaughn Hall

*Andy Hall*  
Andy Hall

Chugiak, Alaska

(907) 688-7626