



Andrew Martin  
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February 6, 2015

State Board of Fisheries  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
330 Harbor Drive  
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear members of the Board of Fisheries

I propose that the waters in District 13, as specified in Proposal 121, should be closed from sac-roe fishery. As a local, I've seen the aftermath of overfishing popular areas for herring. Like most Sitka residents, I also depend on wild and subsistence foods for more than 90% of my meat. I'm only fourteen, but I no longer want to see the impacts of overfishing in the heart of the Sitka Sound ecosystem.

I live on Kasiana Island, right in the middle of the fishing madness. I've fished all my life from the big water to the rocks of Kasiana Island. Since before we purchased our waterfront lot on Kasiana, it has been a final destination for the herring. I remember one year the herring were so thick at Kasiana that every time the aluminum bow of our boat banged the rocks, herring would fly out of the water onto the shore. I could put my hand in five inch water during the spawn and blindly grab a herring anywhere along the shoreline. But I have only seen one quarter of those numbers in the last 2 years. The numbers have been so low in the last few years, it's been hard to catch them even at the end of their journey. Herring numbers have been rapidly decreasing every season due to overfishing. Many Tlingit natives used to come to the bay of Kasiana and set hemlock branches in hope of getting a small amount of some fresh roe. With the numbers of herring down, no one can get even a mouthful of this delicacy.

Over fishing isn't just affecting people, but other marine animals as well. With so many herring fry to go around, all of the marine fish could fill their bellies, but not anymore. I do not want to keep seeing low numbers of marine fish. Subsistence fisherman rely on the resources of halibut and salmon, and those fish eat herring. We will soon see the effects of low numbers of herring on our other important fisheries. There will be no herring in the future for us if we don't conserve the heart of our ecosystem. This area need to be closed due to overfishing. We need to conserve what we have left for the future of our other major fisheries and for the sake of our generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AMartin".

Andrew Martin