



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
 Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
 9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

October 5, 2018

Board of Fisheries
 ADF&G Boards Support
 PO Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 Emailed to: dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov

RE: Tlingit & Haida support for approval of Agenda Change Request 10

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fisheries Members:

As the President of Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) I would like to express my strong support for the approval of Agenda Change Request 10 for the reasons given in Sitka Tribe of Alaska's written comments. Tlingit & Haida urges the Board of Fisheries to add the Sitka Sound herring fishery to the Board's agenda for this year's meeting cycle and to hear the issue early enough so that any changes can be implemented before the next herring season.

Tlingit & Haida is a federally recognized tribal government for the southeast Alaska region, representing over 30,000 tribal citizens worldwide. The harvest of herring roe on branch and kelp is a cultural tradition dating back to time immemorial. The process of harvesting this sacred food provides opportunity for transmittal of important indigenous knowledge and values which promotes individual and community wellness.

Herring egg harvests have declined over the past several years, and the 2018 season was disastrous. For centuries, herring eggs from Sitka have customarily been shared with the members of our community, like many other communities throughout Southeast Alaska and beyond. Our citizens are not getting the eggs they need. They depend on these eggs and have been seriously affected by the declining harvest. We urge the Board to take immediate action to amend the regulations for the Sitka Sound herring fishery and provide subsistence harvesters with a reasonable opportunity to get the amounts they need for subsistence. Significant reform is required to the current regulations and management practices, and the Board's acceptance of the ACR should provide the opportunity for meaningful change.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 888.335.8981 or rpeterson@ccthita-nsn.gov.

Gunalchéesh / Haw'aa,

Richard J. Peterson
 President