

Jessica Gill
1321 Sawmill Creek Rd, #K2
Sitka, AK 99835
March 21, 2013

Dear Chairman Johnstone,

We have heard plenty of public testimony regarding the Kenai River Chinook and sockeye runs, and the management of the runs. Multiple times, I have heard to let the management be about the fish, and keep the politics out of it.

If we can do that with salmon management on the Kenai, why can't we do that with herring throughout the state? Herring are a critical food source for much of the marine environment, and are arguably one of the most important fish in Alaska. Why can't we keep the focus on the fish, and keep the money, the fisheries, and the politics out of management decisions?

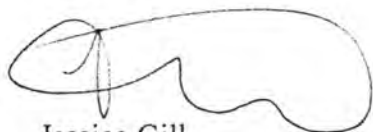
On proposal 243, the debate is whether or not herring are a forage fish. Without question, they are a forage fish. If adding them to the Forage Fish Management Plan changes how we manage these important fish, then maybe that's what needs to happen.

We need to manage the ecosystem, not individual fisheries. Adding herring to the Forage Fish Management Plan can help facilitate the discussion on ecosystem based management, which will be better for all fishermen, all processors, and all other uses of the marine ecosystem.

I urge you to pass proposal 243. Keep the discussion about the fish.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jessica Gill