

**PROPOSAL 126-2014-2015 - 5 AAC 27.XXX. New Section.** Establish a commercial open pound herring spawn on kelp fishery in Sitka Sound, as follows: *(Proposal 126 from the 2015/2016 Meeting Cycle was tabled by the board for continued deliberations at the March 2017 Statewide Finfish meeting.)*

The change in regulation language would allow herring seine permit holders in Sitka to use open platforms to harvest herring roe on kelp. Many ideas were given to the department and board during previous board meetings.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1998 and 1999 an experimental open pound herring roe on kelp fishery was conducted in Sitka Sound. This project identified open pounds as a viable alternative to the sac roe fishery and produced published studies, data, and video which demonstrate the positive results of this alternative harvest method. The proposal for open pounding in Sitka Sound was first presented to the Board of Fisheries in 1996. Nineteen years is a long time ago and the environment surrounding the sac roe fishery has changed. Perhaps it is time for the board to consider this concept again. Open pound herring roe on kelp as an alternative harvest method promotes conservation and would increase the value of the herring fishery in Sitka Sound.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darrell Kapp

(EF-C14-091)

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