

## On-Time Comment Index

Martin Fabry .....PC01

Sitka Tribe of Alaska .....PC02

**Submitted by:** Martin Fabry

**Organization:** Log Cabin Resort

**Community of Residence:** Klawock

**Comment:**

Over the past 5 to 7 years guides and fisherpeople have noticed a large reduction in the amount of bait in both the Noyes Island area along with the area around Sitka. Result, less and smaller king salmon. This must also be true on the Inside Passage area around Ketchikan, Wrangell and maybe Petersburg because Fish and Game have that area closed to catching of Native King Salmon. Would it be wise to stop or greatly reduce the herring pond and net fishery for a couple seasons? It would give the stock a chance to rebuild along with helping every fish up the chain from bait fish. Skip Fabrty



204 SIGINAKA WAY, SUITE 300  
SITKA, ALASKA 99835  
MAIN: 907-747-3207  
FAX: 907-747-4915  
SITKATRIBE.ORG

April 9, 2024

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Board Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission  
PO Box 110302  
Juneau, AK 99801-0302

**RE: Herring Revitalization Committee Process**

Dear Board Members and Commissioners,

I write on behalf of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA), tribal government in Sitka, Alaska, with over 4,500 tribal citizens. As a tribal government, STA is responsible for the health, safety, welfare, and cultural preservation of its tribal citizens. STA objects to the rushed timeframe and opaque nature of the nomination process for the Herring Revitalization Committee.

The email notice requesting nominations for the Herring Revitalization Committee was sent on March 18. The notice set a March 29 due date for nominations and scheduled the first meeting on April 2. This is an unreasonably short time frame, particularly during an exceptionally busy time of year for many individuals and organizations engaged in subsistence herring. Short notice and schedule conflicts prevented meaningful engagement for many interested in herring.

Secondly, while discussing this possible joint committee at Board meetings, members of the Board of Fisheries clearly requested meaningful representation from the public and subsistence harvesters. The meeting notice did not detail any composition for the committee, though the final makeup of the committee has seven seats for various commercial interests, two seats for the Board of Fisheries, and a single subsistence seat. This hardly seems equitable.

Due to the short public notice regarding formation of the committee, its minimal subsistence representation, and the fact that recommendations from the committee have the potential to impact subsistence harvesters statewide, STA requests the Board of Fisheries expand the outreach for subsistence representation on the committee.



If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact STA's Resource Protection Director Jeff Feldpausch at (907)747-7469 or email [jeff.feldpausch@sitkatriben-sn.gov](mailto:jeff.feldpausch@sitkatriben-sn.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence A. Widmark". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lawrence Widmark  
Council Chair