

RC018

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Sent on: Monday, January 8 2018 at 2:21 PM EST

Dear Board of Fish members, Just wanted to write you all in support of SCS and STA's herring conservation proposals 98, 99, 104, 105. It seems clear to myself and others that drastic steps of conservation are needed at this time to protect this vital and fragile resource. This is the last remaining subsistence roe harvest on the west coast, a harvest of vital cultural and nutritional value to all Alaskans, particularly the tribes which have been harvesting them for thousands of years. It is a keystone species and forage fish which greatly benefits the entire ecosystem, despite ADF&G's failure to designate it as such. The salmon which feed on them support the single-largest sustainable industry in our town and in our state - commercial and charter fishing. These same salmon are crucial to the subsistence life which is foundational to what makes us Alaskan and why we live where we do. Please consider supporting Proposals 98, 99, 105 & 106. Thank you for taking the time to read this, Ben