

John Jensen, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
ADF&G Boards Support  
P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK, 99811-5526

December 14, 2017

Chairman Jensen and Board members:

The Sitka ADF&G Advisory Committee respectfully petitions the Board of Fisheries to take emergency action to protect Southeast Alaska - Yakutat Area District 13 shrimp stocks. Specifically, we would like the Board to organize a working group during the Shellfish portion of the January, 2018 BOF meeting in Sitka to recommend a course of action that would provide area management more effective management tools (eg. bag limits, gear restrictions, mesh size) and better data (eg. permitting, reporting requirements) to ensure the long-term health of this resource.

Despite efforts by area management to protect shrimp populations in the Sitka area through dramatic reductions in the allowable commercial harvest, a 50% reduction in CPU's during the previous section 13C commercial season and an alarmingly poor stock assessment in 13C in September, 2017 have prompted this Committee to ask for emergency action. Because the decline was unforeseen and unexpected, identified in the fall of 2017, neither this committee nor user groups in Sitka had time to submit proposals by the deadline for this Board regulations cycle. If action is not taken by the Board, the resource will be at risk for collapse. If better management tools and better data are not provided to area management, area management has indicated closures are the only remaining option.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jon Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Jon Martin, Chairman  
Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee

\*Motion to send this letter passed with unanimous Committee support on December 14, 2017.