

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

January 15, 2018

Board of Fisheries

Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

My name is Jacquelyn Sidor. I took up residence at Myers Chuck in 1973. When I first arrived at Myers Chuck herring were abundant. Folks would sweep a herring rake through the water and be rewarded with an ample amount to take home for dinner. The herring were thick in the Front Chuck, the Back Chuck, in Clarence Straits, around Lemesurier Point into Union Bay and beyond. As the herring filled the Back Chuck with spawn, it was a delight to go outside and hear the sound of the herring jumping. It sounded as if it was pouring rain. In the 1970's and early 80's herring seining was allowed. Soon the herring stocks were annihilated. The fishery ended and the herring were no more in the great abundance they traditionally arrived in. The fishery was closed in Clarence Straits and Behm Canal after the annihilation of the herring by the sac roe fishery and has not recovered.

I support proposal 99 to reduce the harvest level of the sac roe fishery to 10% of the spawning biomass. I support proposal 105 and 106 to expand closed waters in district 13 as noted in their proposal.

I oppose proposals 94 and 104 by the so-called SE Herring Conservation Alliance.

I support proposal 94 and traditional subsistence which has went on for thousands of years. There is a dramatic drop in the amount of herring coming back to spawn, just as it happened outside of Myers Chuck, in Behm Canal and beyond. Look back, records show the annihilation of herring due to the sac roe fisheries overfishing, decimating the herring stocks.

I support proposal 104.....keep the waters in District 13 closed. As the herring population decreases it effects all other fisheries. Not only do traditional egg harvests decrease, the salmon, halibut and all creatures dependent on herring to thrive suffer.

I support proposal 95 to repeal the commercial sac roe fishery in Sections 15-B and 15-C as noted. I also support proposal 96 ~~deleting~~ ^{repeal} fishing district 11-A. The sac roe fishery should be eliminated for the good reasons given in each of these proposals.

I oppose proposal 97 due to the fact the herring stocks are depleted.

I support proposal 98 to reduce the rate for commercial herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska area as noted. I urge you to support this proposal.

In regards to the economic factors. I heard talk of how many are employed in the sac roe fishery and the flurry of cash it brings in when the fishery is open. The short term financial gain is not worth the long term loss of biodiversity in the region. Many of the jobs outlined by the industry are jobs that do not depend on this one fishery. If Silver Bay Seafoods and Sitka Sound Seafoods only rely on the herring sac roe fishery to remain solvent they are on shaky ground.

The best solution in my view is to close the sac roe fishery and expand the closure to include the entirety of Sitka Sound.

Sincerely, Jacquelyn Sidor