

RC119

Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

11518

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries members,

My name is Sharil Smith and I have gillnetted in Southeast Alaska since 1986. I reside in Wrangell Alaska and have fished in all the available areas in the past. We now stay closer to home which means that the Special Harvest Area, Anita Bay, is very important to the family income. If Anita Bay were not available for the Gillnet Community it would force the local Gillnet Fleet to search out other fishing opportunities. This would affect the local economy as well as time spent with family. Out 3 children spent many gillnet seasons being able to spend time on the boat during gillnet openings and then have time with friends on off days. Our hope is that the new generation of Gillnetters will have these same opportunities.

The availability of Special Harvest Areas in other areas of Southeast Alaska has allowed Gillnetters, be they men or women, to spend more time close to home and families.

I am the wife of a member of USAG and support the proposals they submitted (141, 154, 156, 157, 160, 169 and 170). I also support the on-comments USAG submitted about other proposals.

Thank you for considering this letter,

Sharil Smith

F/V Sabrina Joy

907-470-4994