

Mitch Keplinger  
PO Box 1006  
Kodiak Alaska 99615

January 10, 2018

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board members,

My name is Mitch Keplinger and I am a lifelong commercial fisherman from Kodiak Alaska. I have been fishing the Sitka Sound Herring Fishery for the last 23 years. I have just purchased a permit of my own in the last week.

I am opposed to proposals 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105, and 106. These proposals are not founded in science or any applied research. I rely on this fishery for a significant portion of my income and these proposals would all have a potentially negative impact on my business. I have just invested a very considerable amount of money in the purchase of a SE Herring Purse Seine permit and any one of these proposals will reduce the value of that investment which is based on the long stable biomass and management plan of the ADFG.

I support proposal 104. There is and never has been a biological reason to close this area and by doing so it hinders ADFG options for managing the fishery in the best manner possible.

I will be involved in another fishery during most of your Sitka Board meeting so while it is possible, I do not expect to be able to attend.

Sincerely

Mitch Keplinger  
Kodiak Alaska