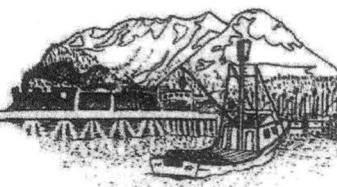


# CITY OF CORDOVA



January 15, 2018

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
Attn: Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Sitka Sound Herring Fishery

Dear Board,

The Sitka Sound Herring fishery is a vibrant fishery in which Cordova fishermen participate, making it of economically vital importance to Cordova. To reiterate general comments to the Board of Fish from the City of Cordova's November 17, 2017 letter, subsistence fisheries to meet subsistence needs, science-based management, and a priority of sustainable commercial fisheries are all vital to our community and Alaska's future.

With specific regard to herring fisheries Prince William Sound stocks were decimated by the Exxon Valdez Oil spill and other factors. In our November 17<sup>th</sup> letter, we testified that before allowing personal use fisheries, the stocks should be available for subsistence use, with a priority for restoring the commercial fishery before personal use is allowed. The subsistence herring fishery in Prince Williams Sound is small, but accommodates user groups from all over the State of Alaska. The subsistence salmon fishery that the Board implemented for Area E near Cordova is also anticipated to provide subsistence opportunities for fishermen and residents all over the state of Alaska. These opportunities complement commercial opportunities, and should continue to.

The Sitka Sound herring fisheries is a model of good Department management of a sustainable fishery, and the City of Cordova strongly opposes large shifts in allocation that will have severe economic and social consequences even for communities as far up the coast as Cordova. The science-based approach of the ADFG management of the Sitka fisheries is an example of how herring fisheries should be managed statewide.

Thank you for your consideration and for continuing to balance needs between user groups in a considered, science-based approach with resistance to large, sudden shifts in allocation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clay Koplin".

Clay Koplin, Mayor

[mayor@cityofcordova.net](mailto:mayor@cityofcordova.net) (907) 253-5026 text/cell