

Lee House Testimony

Robi Craig

I'm here this morning to talk to you a little bit about historic Sitka Sound Herring Levels

Ray Nielsen Jr

On the subject of the herring, it is safe to say that we have been concerned about the stocks for quite some time, not just now

Archie Nielsen

When I was a youngster, from Jamestown Bay all the way down to Goddard Hot Springs

Isabella Brady

Eggs spawned all over the Sitka Sound area, all of this area was white when the herring came in

Herman Kitka

Herring was plentiful then

Fred Hope

And everybody had their favorite place to go; they would go there and wait, rather than compete with somebody else in another cove

Wade Martin

But over the years all of the spots on my South Side like Dorothy Narrows, Three Entrance Bay, Pirates Cove Samsing Cove, Samsing, Sandy Cove, Jamestown Bay, we haven't got anything out of there in years.

James Nielsen

Jamestown bay, Camp Coogan, it would take too long to name every little bit

Walter Moy

The channel used to be full of herring, Jamestown bay used to be full of herring

James Nielsen

The whole bay used to be covered with spawn

Jessie Johnnie

All the way into town

Fred Hope

Spawn through the channels, spawn in totem park, spawn in Jamestown bay

Jessie Johnnie

And then they would quit there for a little while, and then continue into Old Sitka and near Halak Island

Walter Moy

From Middle Island out to Vitskari Rocks and out to Cape Edgecumbe used to be full of herring; Shelikof Bay used to be full of herring

Jessie Johnnie

I don't see this any more

James Nielsen

We don't see this anymore

Walter Moy

Not anymore.

ted Borbridge

But there was nothing there... it was a false spawn

Mim Bartels

But when I went back, my branches were bare...

James Nielsen

Last year we went to Middle Island; that was the only place to fill our needs. But it was still not enough.

Robi Craig

What is being managed today is just a remnant stock of what could be, and what should be, in order for the wildlife, for the subsistence users, and for everyone fishing to be successful at those things

Jack Lorrigan

The herring not only support the sac roe fishery, but a much larger organic web as far as the fish and the marine mammals and the birds are concerned

Herman Kitka

We need to protect our customary subsistence use of the herring stock and herring roe for future generations

Isabella Brady

This is part of our culture it's part of our way of life

Herman Kitka

If nothing is done we will lose the herring stock that are left in Sitka sound