

January 15, 2018

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries

RE: Sitka Sound Herring Fishery

I am writing in support of Sitka Tribe of Alaska's proposals 98, 99, 105, and 106.
I further more oppose proposals 94, 104, and 107.

I believe that the observational science of the Tlingit peoples over thousands of year should be considered with respect and deference. I have lived in Southeast Alaska for only 34 years and yet in that time have seen a marked decline in observable herring. The Tlingit have lived here for thousands and thousands of years and their knowledge of this land is vast, broad and deep. Their collective knowledge of eons should not be dismissed or considered as less than scientific or valid. As the primary people of this land their voice should be heard first and foremost. I urge you to listen to and respond affirmatively to the Sitka Tribes proposals.

Herring are the base of all our lives who live here in Southeast Alaska. They should not be sold to the detriment of the Tlingit people, the whales, sea lions, salmon, and all the wildlife that depend on herring to sustain life. Every other fishery in Sitka and all of Alaska depend on the herring. Our community depends on the herring.

I do understand that reducing the herring sac roe fishery will have significant economic impact on those invested monetarily, and by proxy our entire community. This makes the decision to make a change in harvest very difficult. However, short term losses that promote long term gains are generally better than the opposite. We have seen many choices in the United States and world history where a resource was used for short term gain that had long term devastating effect. It is time we start looking for long term solutions. This will mean paying a price to protect resources today.

I have been told that the Tlingit live considering seven generations from now. It is time we learn from the Tlingit people and make the best choices for those that will come after us, so they too can be healthy and prosper.

Please protect and conserve the Herring.

Thank you for your service to our community and our state.

Carol Hughey
220 Lakeview Dr
Sitka Alaska 99835
carolahughey@gmail.com