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411 North Nordic Dr
Petersburg, AK 99833

Cell & Boat 360-303-8337
Home markmackie@comcast.net
Boat markmack4@gmail.com

Mackman Marine, Inc F/V Deco Bay Decomack Marine, Inc F/V Steelhead

January 10, 2018

Board of Fisheries
January 15 – 23, 2018
Sitka, Alaska

Support for Proposal 94 & 104; Opposition to Proposals 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105, & 106

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fish Members:

I depend on the Sitka Sound herring fishery for my livelihood and family. I have owned and operated a tender vessel in the Sitka herring fishery since 1991 and two tender vessels since 2010. I have participated in the fishery since 1981. The fishery is very important to me, my family, my crew and their families both financially and in defining our occupations as Alaskan fishermen.

Cutting the harvest rate as in Proposals 98 and 99 would be particularly harmful to my operation and could make the spring herring fishery unprofitable for me. There is no biological reason to reduce the harvest rate. The Department manages the herring fishery conservatively, and given that the biomass has risen from 5,000 tons in the 1970's to the present day 55,000 tons is testament to their sound management. Fishermen rely on sustainable and conservative management for our future.

I am opposed to Proposals 105 and 106 that seek to increase the area closed to fishing. The reasons stated are that subsistence needs cannot be met. The department has demonstrated that a 'reasonable opportunity' does exist, but participation by users has been declining over the past 30 years. If sufficient effort is applied toward harvest of herring eggs, the eggs are sufficiently abundant to meet those needs.

Please reject these proposals

Sincerely,


Mark Mackiewicz
Owner and Operator

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