

Board of Fisheries
State of Alaska

RE: Sitka Herring proposals

Support: 94 and 104

Oppose: 95, 96, 98, 105 and 106

Mr Chairman and Board Members:

These Proposals all relate to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) efforts to eliminate the commercial harvest of sac roe herring in Sitka Sound. When I first bought into the fishery in 1985, there were quite a few local STA members who participated in the fishery as vessel owners or deckhands. Despite that, the STA leadership began their ongoing campaign to eliminate the fishery, using the mantra "we are unable to meet our subsistence needs due to the commercial fishery." This effort is run much like a political campaign with perception given credence over reality.

Over the years, the STA had been unable to produce any scientifically verifiable evidence to support their contentions. Steve Relfunstuhl of the Sitka Conservation Alliance gives the most thorough and compelling analysis of these proposals and explains why the STA justifications have no basis in fact.

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Fishing Sitka Sound sac roe herring from 1985 to the present time.