

Aaron Miller, F/V Outlook
Petersburg, Alaska, 99833

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 am a third generation fisherman of the Sitka Herring Sac Roe fishery. My family and I have depended on the income this fishery has provided for quite a long time now. This is a fishery that we have taken great pride in. 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 and my crew. There is no biological reason to reduce the harvest rate. The Department manages the herring fishery in a sustainable and conservative way. Proof of this can be noted in the historical growth trend of the biomass from the 1970s to more recent dates. Fishermen rely on sustainable and conservative management for our future in all parts of the state and I believe there is equal opportunity for both commercial and subsistence users to access this resource.

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,

Aaron Miller, family, and F/V Outlook crew