

Board of Fisheries

January 15-23, 2018

Sitka, Alaska

Dear, Chairman Jensen and Board of Fish Members,

I would like to express my support for proposals 94 and 104 and my opposition to proposals 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105 & 106. I am a life long fisherman and have participated in the herring fisheries in the state of Alaska since 1974 (PWS, Kodiak, Cook Inlet and Togiak). I have been a Sitka Sac Roe permit holder since 2010 and participated in this fishery since 1999. My family and I depend on this fishery for our livelihood. The Sitka herring fishery is one of the healthiest and well managed in the state (by Alaska Department of Fish and Game). If proposals 98 and 99 are not rejected the effects will be felt by all, not just permit holders. The crewmembers, tendermen and their crews, processors and all who work for them and with them, buyers of the product as well as the City of Sitka and the State of Alaska will suffer. There are no conservation issues related to this fishery as shown by the Department of Fish and Game data, biomass of 5000 tons in the 1970's to over 55,000 tons today, so harvest rates need not change. The herring are abundant and whales, sea lions, sea birds etc. are thriving and plentiful in this area.

Proposals 105 and 106 are not necessary, the subsistence needs can be easily met. The issue here is effort and the changing habits of subsistence users. I as well as many other fishermen would gladly help subsistence users harvest eggs so we can continue to have a cooperative and healthy fishery for all users.

Please reject proposals 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105 and 106.

And support proposals 94 and 104.

Sincerely,



Louie Alber

owner/operator

FV Leading Lady