

Rocky Rutledge, F/V Lady Helen

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. 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. Tenders 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,

Robert Rutledge

F/V Lady Helen

Lady Helen Fisheries Inc.