

Luke Lester  
F/V Raging Beauty  
P.O. Box 553  
Kodiak, AK 99615

**Board of Fisheries**  
January 15-23,2018  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fish Members:

I was born and raised into a fishing family that is from the Native village of Old Harbor on Kodiak Island. I spent majority of my childhood commercial fishing the summers around both Kodiak and Sitka areas. I have participated in the Sitka Herring Sac Roe fishery for 17+ years as both a crew-man and more recently as a vessel owner and skipper. This past year I was finally able to purchase a Sitka Sac Roe Herring permit (\$325,000). As a newly invested permit holder, my family and I depend on the Sitka Herring Sac Roe fishery for our livelihood and expect it to help with the financial security for the future seasons.

I **support proposal 93, 94, and 104.** (93) Proposal 93 is great way to provide more income and value in south east, new fisheries are stimulating for the economy. (94) ADF&G needs to have some way to accurately manage the subsistence fishery. (104) We need to have more accessible areas to fish, allowing us to have a better of a chance to succeed in the already very competitive fishery. The ADF&G has been very cautious and diligent when dealing with the management of the herring fishery. The annual increase of the herring biomass over the past 30+ years has shown their sustainable and conservative management.

I am **opposed to the proposals 99,105, and 106.** (99) There is plenty of data to show that the current management plan in place is working great. Changing the current plan most likely will have unforeseen future problems. (105-106) Proposals that are attempting to expand close waters in the Sitka Sound herring fishery for the benefit of subsistence harvesting does not seem reasonable. With many miles of coastline, and adequate effort for harvesting herring roe, there is plenty of roe for subsistence fisherman. That being said I also **don't support proposals 95,96,98, and 100.** I don't support these for all the same reasons, we do not need to restrict a commercial fishery more. The commercial fishing has no impact on subsistence, the fish move year to year and so do the fisherman, subsistence fisherman need to do the same.

Sincerely,

Luke Lester

Lukeleser0590@yahoo.com