

January 15, 2018  
Ron Blake, F/V Ace  
Cordova, Alaska, 99574

**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. As a resident of Cordova, I am reliant upon services and amenities in Sitka during the fishery that benefit the local (Sitka) economy. In turn, the City of Cordova benefits from any economic gains earned through my participation in the Sitka Sound herring fishery. This fishery is good for Sitka, it's good for Cordova, and it's good for the State of Alaska.

**I am strongly OPPOSED to Proposals 98 and 99.** Cutting the harvest rate as described 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. Fishermen rely on sustainable and conservative management for our future, and I believe that the Sitka Sound herring fishery is among the most researched and best managed fishery in the state and therefore the world.

**I am opposed to Proposals 105 and 106,** which 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,

Ron Blake

