

January 15, 2018
Samantha Marifern, F/V Freedom
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 depend on the Sitka Sound herring fishery for my livelihood, my future, and my family. I have been working on the back deck of the F/V Freedom to put myself through college, and income from the Sitka herring fishery is a large contribution to this. Cutting the harvest rate as in Proposals 98 and 99 would be particularly harmful to our small family fishing operation and could make the spring herring fishery unprofitable for my family and I. I am very grateful that the Department has been successfully managing this fishery conservatively, and would argue that they are well equipped to make the correct decisions for sustaining this fishery. Being from a small fishing family, we 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,

Samantha Marifern, Crewmember