



Organized Village of Kake

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(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)

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Dear Board of Fisheries,

The Sitka Herring Sac Roe fishery has a long and contentious history. Since the tribal community starting writing resolutions to stop the herring fishery in lower Chatham decades ago, subsistence users have been given excuses for one reason the commercial fishery must happen or another. But every conscientious examination of the issue shows that conservation and subsistence use must take precedence over a commercial sac-roe fishery.

Everyone wants a piece of the pie, but the rule of law says that whoever had the pie first should keep it. When it comes to herring, the Tlingit people have had a Cultural and Spiritual relationship with herring since time immemorial, herring is their pie to share, and for decades the tribal community in Sitka has demanded more conservation of the herring.

The fundamentals of conservation dictate that we should err on the side of caution when it comes to managing populations. Herring fisheries up and down the Pacific Northwest Coast have collapsed, recently the Haida Gwaii herring commercial fishery, and the Sitka Sound population the last sizable population. The fundamentals of fishery management dictate that we manage this last viable population conservatively.

Herring play a fundamental role in the marine ecosystems that support all of Alaska's fisheries. Yet the sac-roe fishery is extremely wasteful. Subsistence users have always known, and Alaskan statute dictates, that wasteful harvest is unethical. Yet the sac-roe fishery is mostly waste. It's like killing herds of deer but only harvesting the livers. Everything but the roe is ground up into fish meal for fertilizer or worse, to feed farmed fish, including BC salmon farms. Common sense would dictate that these herring are more valuable feeding endangered wild Alaskan salmon than supporting the threat of farmed salmon.

For these reasons, based on traditional knowledge that stretches back thousands of years longer than ADF&G's limited data, based on decades of testimony from Sitkans of every race, I urge the board to support Proposal 99, to cap the sac-roe fishery at 10% of biomass.

Sincerely,

Mike A. Jackson

Organized Village of Kake
Natural Resource Officer