

RC 227  
Revised Testamency from Kenyatta  
Bradley

My English name is Kenyatta Bradley My Lingit name is Yaada chuune Kaa (meaning straight forward man) I am Naanyie Killerwhale from Wrangell

I Have lived the majority of my life in Sitka Alaska.

I own A boat and a 75pot SE Dungeness Crab permit I also have my 100 ton captains license and I submitted Prop 60 to establish a Super Exclusive Dungeness Crab Eco. Tour in the Sitka area, You passed this proposal 5 to 1 I thank you for your time, understanding, and deliberation on this proposal.

I have commercial fished since I was 12 years old on my dads boat selling my summers to the pacific ocean. I choose to live in Sitka year round due to its proximity to the open ocean and abundant resources. I call Sitka Home unlike the majourity of the Sitka Sac Roe herring purse sein fleet.

But enough about me lets talk herring.

You have heard the cry of the local Natives... Indigenous and non-indigenous and their shared desire to maintain a healthy biomass of herring in the Sitka Sound area.

These herring bring us out of the cold dark winter months and ~~bring an abundance of life to the sound.~~

I have taken the time to read the reports given by the ADFG and picked the brains of you biologist <sup>Herring fishery bio.</sup> Mr. Kyle Herbert who does great comprehensive research based on what you tell him to focus on and the budget he has to do it. I have also had the opportunity to talk in length with the <sup>Sitka</sup> herring fisheries manager <sup>local Sitka</sup> Mr. ~~Eric~~ <sup>Herring Manager</sup> ~~Herbert~~ <sup>Manast</sup> I belive he also does great work following the guidelines you give him. They both have a great passion and understanding of their work.

But it is my understanding that the ADFG budget has been cut in half since the State is going through this fiscal crisis, with this year being worse than last.

And what a time for these cuts to take place, a time of Ecological change such as ocean acidification and don't forget the Blob that is still out there as well as

invasive species such as squid or the perch that give live birth year around and I have witnessed plagueing our shore lines like locus from sitka sound to hoonah sound. Not to mention the 80 plus whales that now choose to live in Sitka Sound through the winter. And maybe you have heard our king salmon are in trouble.

I believe this board relies on **Sound** science... (no pun intended) as you should but your scientists can only look where you tell them to look and can only take their studies as far as their budget will carry them. I don't believe it is in the budget to study the many ecological changes we are experiencing.

In the late 1970s Sitka sac roe herring sold for \$1900/ton in recent years our precious herring have sold for a insulting 100 to 200\$/ton I would pay \$200 to see those herring stay in the pacific ocean food chain. Historically herring have gone for a more feasible price of 400 to 700\$/ton (remember this sac roe is a delicacy in Asian markets) in the late 1970s a crew member made \$25,000 for 2 hours of seining in sitka sound. This year I am informed the herring brought the fishermen 300\$/ton

Therefore it is my opinion our herring are selling far under market value, and a reduction to 10% harvest will affect the market and drive prices up for our hard working seiners. It would also stabilize the market and take out room for the market games that are played every year.

Now I will speak to prop. 106 to create a buffer zone to the subsistence area. When Mr Kyle Herbert gave his presentation he stated 3 factors that would divert herring from the special subsistence area I expanded them for you as follows.

1. 80 plus boats with an average of 400hp spinning circles in front of crow pass does not invite herring into the area.
2. Sein nets dragging near the shallow water of the subsistence area combined with prop wash and tide turns up sand and silt that is not desirable for spawning herring.
3. When herring are caught near the entrance of crow pass I would equate that to creek robbing.

Therefore I support the buffer zone presented by prop. 106 but I do not support the areas listed by 105. I believe the subsistence users take just as much of a gamble as the seiners do in hoping the herring choose to spawn there. If we had this buffer zone maybe the locals would see more spawn on their branches and this would not be such a contentious issue.

My biggest fear is that the Sitka sound herring will go the way of so many other herring that used to be in Alaska. The ADFG came into the picture in the late 70s and have managed 16 herring fisheries in the South East district only 2 of them survive today as a viable fishery and ADFG has no explanation as to why these stocks have failed. They don't have the funding to do comprehensive studies on anything other than the current viable fisheries.

In previous years the board of fish voted to increase the threshold to 25% of pristine biomass but made concessions to the seiners with an arbitrary start point of 12% GHl with an increased slope of harvest per multiple of the threshold. This means if we are all the way down to 28% biomass the ADFG management team has an obligation to still catch at this steep sloped GHl this is not a scientific way of doing things it is political.