



# Alaska Independent Tenderman's Association

PO Box 131 Petersburg, Alaska 99833

January 17, 2018

Good Afternoon Chairman Jensen and Board,

My name is Lisa Terry. I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Independent Tenderman's' Association from Petersburg, Alaska.

The Alaska Independent Tenderman's Association is a nonprofit 501 (c) (6) representing over 130 tendermen, their crew and families that tender multiple species in the state of Alaska.

AITA Oppose Herring proposals - 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105, 106

AITA Support Herring proposals - 94, 104 and 107

Herring proposals 98, 99 and 100 would reduce the harvest rate and change methodology of assessing the biomass. This would negatively affect the Sitka fishery and establish a very dangerous precedent. AITA is strongly opposed to this. The tendering fleet will be severally affected by these proposals. On the average, you will see 30 to 50 tenders participating in the Sitka Sac Roe fishery depending on the GHL. In years of abundance, that number has reached 120 and on low years, it has been as few as 9 tenders all based on GHL. This represents anywhere from 27 jobs to 420 jobs within the tender fleet. Many if not most of these tenders are small family run operations by owner operators, which cannot sustain such a major reduction in their annual income. The economic impact to the tendermen and their families, crew and their families, supporting businesses to the tender fleet and their families and all the respective communities that they live in will feel the impact of the ripple effect of the loss of jobs and revenue and this is only the tender fleet. This fishery represents the much need first income of the year for the majority of these tenders.

Any reduction to the harvest level should be based in sound scientific methods used to assess the biomass. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been using a very established scientific method that is both conservative and sustainable. The consistent building of the stock has proved this. Sitka Herring is quite possibly the most researched fish in the state by the department. AITA is very confident that the department has been and will continue to manage the resource in a conservative and sustainable manner for all users.

Many of the participating tenders have been involved in this fishery for over 30 years. We have been defending our jobs on this current issue for close to a decade. We are tired of constantly fighting for the opportunity to work.

Our constitution states in Article VIII, section 1, section 4 and section 15. It is the policy of the state to encourage the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use. Fish, shall be utilized, developed and maintained on the sustained yield principle and no exclusive right or special privilege shall be created or authorized in the natural waters of the state. We interpret this as the states ability to limit entry to prevent economic distress among fisherman and those dependent upon them and to maintain conservation.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our views on these matters before the board.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Terry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa Terry

Executive Director

Alaska Independent Tendermans' Association