

January 19, 2018

RC 287

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am a born and raised Sitkan. My partner bought a salmon troller two years ago and he has been long-lining for the past 20 years.

I had the opportunity to watch the ADF&G Report to the Board on King Salmon, as presented by Steven Heinl & Ed Jones on Monday, January 15th. This presentation informed the public that ocean survival is the primary driver of the king salmon crisis, but that the causes of poor ocean survival are unknown. Given this uncertainty, I ask that the Board of Fish support conservative management of commercial herring fisheries in order to take precautions to preserve a critical (& high fat!) food source for king salmon and other at-risk species.

Every salmon user is being asked to sacrifice for the survival of this precious resource and for our future generations. This is difficult, but appropriate. I ask that you insure that the cost and responsibility of these measures be shared more equitably, by taking action for stewardship across the food chain; please support Proposal 98 or 99, whichever you deem most appropriate.

Sincerely,

Chandler O'Connell
608 Etolin Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835