I, Jenna Martin am in support of Proposal’s 98, 99, 105, and 106. I have been helping my father out on the boat for about 9 years now and I’ve been helping him on land since I was little. I hope that you hear us all out on our testimonies and see this is really important to all of us. This is our way of life. I have a five year old son who I hope one day I’ll be able to pass this down and be able to show him how to set trees and put up our herring eggs for the winter. In my short time of seeing the fishery and collecting herring eggs I have seen a big change.

My father has been going out and getting herring eggs for over 45 years. My father’s name is Wade Martin. Last year, was about one of the hardest and most frustrating years to get herring eggs for our family. We had to sit on our sets just to make sure that our trees wouldn’t get stolen. We went out early in the morning and didn’t get home until after dinner time. We had caught the F/V Katlian going looking at our set. They don’t care about the quality of the herring eggs that they give away for “free” so they say but really they get paid. You can’t just go out and replace the herring eggs that were stolen from you this only happens once a year and it’s getting to the point where we will end up like many other places in Southeast Alaska that used to have herring for example Juneau. I believe that the test sets for the sac –roe fishery kill many of the herring. You see herring floating and some that have already sunk to the bottom of the ocean. By limiting the amount they harvest we will all be able to get herring and our herring eggs to survive. I’m not saying that we should shut down the herring fishery. I remember hearing stories from my dad and my grandfather about where the herring spawned now there’s only one cove that we all can rely on. My dad told me how he remembered when he was kid how he would go down to Pirates Cove, Dorothy Narrows, Sam Sing Cove, Kasiana Island, Katlian Bay, Siginaka Island, Big and Small Gravanski, Hayward Strait, Nakwasina Sound, Sukoi Inlet, Rodger Point, Vixen islands, Silver Bay, and Saint John the Baptist Bay. I may not have the scientific data to show that its being over fished but you can see it. The boats that come here they didn’t have to be here for a whole month just to wait for the herring opening and to get their quota. Used to be able to go come get their nets ready and fuel up and then wait for the two hour notice, fish and get their quota and leave less than a month. Last year they didn’t even get their quota that they were allowed to get. What does that tell you? It tells you that we need to make the herring fishery smaller and if they can’t get the quota in a certain amount of time than we should call it good. I hope that we all can work together and make this work.

In conclusion I hope that we can save the herring for all of us. If we don’t do something about the fishery now we won’t have one. Thank you for taking your time and listening to everyone’s testimonies and reading our letters. Everyone here relies on the herring it’s a circle of life. I hope us fighting like this isn’t too late and that we are doing something really good. Thank you.