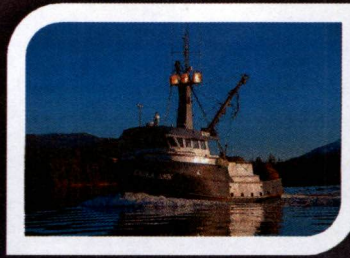


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Date: 1/17/18



RC 348

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fisheries members,

I was born in Petersburg, Alaska the 4th of 7 children and commercial fishing has been my passion ever since I can remember. Proudly I've watched my 6 children participate in commercial harvests together with me on the boat, making it truly a family operation. Many, many people in my community have family operations just like mine. There are generations of families who've worked together on boats for months at a time, year after year. I have participated in the Sitka herring fishery for 40 years as crew, permit skipper and tender vessel. I depend on the sac Roe fishery for part of my living and would like to continue to do so.

Cutting the harvest rate as Proposed in 98 and 99 would be devastating financially to my family, my community, Sitka's community and the many jobs and incomes it stimulates all over the state, but would it really help the ANS? I ask you that question, cutting the GHL and substantially reduces many incomes, would it substantially increase substances branch egg production? The Sitka Sac Roe Herring fishery has no biological reason to reduce the harvest rate and by cutting that it undermines the long history of stock assessment and the opportunities the Department knows is sustainable to harvesting herring for all groups. The Department manages the herring fishery conservatively, and given that the biomass has risen from 5,000 tons in the 1970's to the present day 55,000 tons is testament to their sound management.

I am opposed to Proposals 105 and 106 that seek to increase the area closed to fishing. The reasons stated are that subsistence needs cannot be met. I disagree. I believe that the ANS will not gain a more bountiful harvest if more area was closed to commercial fishing. Another thought is that if they are not meeting their needs locally, why are they shipping it out to other communities and leaving their families and fellow tribesmen without harvest? I would consider if they are selling these branches for a profit. That isn't very traditional.

What will benefit ANS, is working with myself and other people in the commercial industry who have offered help. Certain vessels and groups have helped in the past, and will offer again every year. We used to help generously until the subsistence group rejected our help.

When we work together, we all win.

I Support Proposals 94 & 104 and I Oppose Proposals 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105, & 106

Thank you

Respectively,
Charles L Christensen