



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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January 19, 2018

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Opposition of Herring Proposals 98, 99, 105, and 106 that would reduce harvest rate or fishing area

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fisheries Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 34 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

UFA supports sustainable, science-based management of fisheries. Fishermen depend on ADF&G data analysis, sound management, and the ASA herring model for a healthy and sustainable herring stock in Sitka Sound. The department has conducted outside peer review of its ASA model by the University of Alaska and the leading University of Washington fishery modeler Andre Punt. UFA believes ADF&G's Sitka Sound herring stock assessment is based on fundamental scientific principles, good data and peer review.

ADF&G's commitment to precise biomass estimates is further shown in their current research project to determine the maturity at age composition of the Pacific herring in Sitka Sound using scale samples.

UFA opposes Proposals 98 and 99, which would reduce the current harvest rate without biological merit. We also oppose proposals 105 and 106 that would close additional area to fishing. These four proposals are detrimental to the fishing industry and have no merit.

Sincerely,

Frances H. Leach
Executive Director