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Members of the Board of Fish,

My grandfather, Bill Carr, was one of the first fishermen involved in the Sitka Sac Roe in the 70s. My whole extended family would go out on the boat to participate or to observe. After he passed my mother ran his permit for as long as the interim laws would allow. We also took time from long-lining black cod in the Gulf to come down and tender our family boat, the Kamilar, for it. After buying the boat in 2016 I ran the Kamilar, now Alaskan Girl, in 2017 with the first all woman crew, including myself. I was proud to make that milestone, I hope it wasn't the only year for us.

Adding my nephew Oliver Finney, age 6, last year my family has participated in this fishery every single year for four generations and several decades. In that time it has always been a sustainable, well managed fishery. I now also participate in Roe on Kelp, a roe harvesting fishery, and have many friends in the very abundant bait fishery. Herring are rife through out SE Alaska. Anyone who wants to cultivate a product from the spawn can do so with very little effort.

The herring stock is abundant and well managed, I'll let the science speak for itself. But I'd also like to mention the personal investment we have made. We bought permits, equipment, I bought my boat expecting the revenue from this fishery. The terms of my loan depended on it. It's a healthy, conservatively managed fishery, why would I expect it to be up ended? I can't be there at the Board of Fish meeting as I'm driving my boat to Westport to participate in the Dungeness fishery. That's the unfortunate thing about these meetings, they are decided by one group while the other, who is affected most, is busy working.

People will surely bring up the fishermen with their multimillion dollar boats and permits in the hundreds of thousands, expecting you to lose empathy for us. What they don't see is the multi million dollar loan and the 160/hr work week 11.5 months of the year. I live on my boat until my payments get smaller. We are not big industry. We are small business owners who employ friends and family and ambitious young Alaskans. None of us want to see this fishery end this year or twenty years from now. With all the money and time individual families have invested in this. I am 30 years old, I am in it for the long term. The only way to have it be successful is if there's a viable resource. And there hasn't been anything to prove the contrary.

Between the fishermen, the shipyards all over Alaska that prepare the fishermen, the net builders, the stores that sell them goods, the fish and game, the hired on techs, the tenders, the pilots, the processing companies and all their personnel, the utility companies that supply the processors with electricity, gas, the restaurants, etc I could go on expanding, detailing how this seemingly small fishery of 50 permits involves and employs a seriously big portion of Alaska and neighboring states in an otherwise very slow month. The revenue, the livelihood, and the tradition it brings to industries, towns, and families across the state is indispensable.

Thanks,
Brannon Finney
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