

Thomas Nelson F/V Crescent Moon  
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Board of Fisheries      January 15-23

Dear Chairman Jensen and members of the board,

I have participated in the Sitka Sound herring fishery for 30 years, 17 as a skipper. I depend on this fishery as part of my livelihood to provide for my family. I am adamantly opposed to proposals 98-99 that seek to reduce the harvest in the fishery. Currently ADFG policy for management uses proven science to set quota and estimate biomass. It had worked extremely well over the last 40 years as we have stable and abundant stocks of herring. There is no scientific reason to change this strategy. Proponents cite nothing more than opinion and theory for there proposals. Its not time to set the precedent that Alaska manages its fisheries based on feelings or individual theories. Please do not make any changes to the management of The Fishery. I also am opposed to proposals 105-106 that seek to expand the closed areas. Subsistence egg harvest has declined over the years due to changing demographics and lack of effort. Its not that the eggs are not available there is just very little effort to go attempt to harvest them. The commercial fleet should not be punished for lack of motivation by the subsistence users.

Thank You Thomas Nelson