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Board of Fisheries

January 15 – 23, 2018
Sitka, Alaska

Support for Proposal 94 & 104; Opposition to Proposals 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105, & 106

Chairman Jensen, and board of fish members,

I have been a participant in the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery for over 35yrs. My family and business are dependent on the income derived from this sustainable Herring fishery. Any reduction to harvest that is not based on the scientific methods used to asses biomass, Would undermine the ADF&G data compiled over a vast period of time. Any harvest reduction Not backed up by science, or for conservation of the resource, that would cause economic harm to fishery participants, should not be considered. Changing herring harvest levels in Sitka for political reasons is not a good method of management. The stocks in Sitka sound area have been healthy for years, because of the conservative scientific method of management by the ADF&G.

Please do not impact so many dependent incomes, without strong science to back it up.

We are opposed to proposals 105 and 106 that seek to increase the closed fishing areas. These areas are set aside for subsistence use, but have not been adequately utilized. The department has demonstrated that the reasonable opportunity does exist, but participation By users has declined over the past 30 yrs. If subsistence users desired herring roe, more effort Would be made, and there is sufficient abundance to fulfill subsistence needs.

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